



Al-Ayn Social Care Foundation (UK)

20 | Activities 23 | Report



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We renew our thanks and appreciation to those working for, supporting, and contributing to the charitable activities of this pioneering foundation, for the distinctive care it provides to our beloved orphans and to needy individuals, including those who are widowed, ill, and displaced.

Al-Sayyid Al-Sistani | August 2022

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Message from the Director

Over the last year, we have been proud to continue our mission of servitude of orphaned children, striving for the highest level of care.

As we look back at 2023, it was a year of both great challenge and success, as we navigated the difficulty of delivering in high-risk and difficult to reach areas, yet we expanded our global operations and registered more children than ever.

In June, we marked the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of Al-Ayn UK, prompting the reflection of our endeavours over the last decade.

Communities all over the UK have embraced Al-Ayn in a way that we could not have dreamed of when we embarked on this journey. Along the way, we have listened to your feedback, noting the many lessons learned, in order to be in the best position to continue to go from strength to strength as an organisation.

The beneficiaries of our services across our areas of operation have inspired our resolve to persevere in the face of challenges. Whilst ongoing instability and a lack of opportunity continued to curtail the future prospects of children suffering poverty, loss and trauma, we were delighted to see our services reach a record number of orphaned children and their families.

In 2023, we opened the doors to our Hikayati Centre, a state-of-the-art facility that is now delivering outstanding, specialist psychosocial care to children in Iraq. Thousands of children will now benefit from an additional 4 Luminous Stars Centres that opened over the last year, which will each act as a hub for our work in their respective areas and facilitate access to psychological rehabilitation.

We saw an increase in the need for our work, and we responded, addressing specific medical, housing and educational needs for thousands in addition to the comprehensive care services that all children in our care access.

We also expanded our operations further in Afghanistan and Ghana, registering more families to receive our services, and laid the groundwork to expand into new regions across the world.

Our local field teams worked tirelessly throughout the year to deliver Al-Ayn's services across our areas of operation, working at capacity to bring our vision to life. Their dedication to ensuring that each of the 100,000 children in our care receive the best possible quality of service, tailored to their needs, was exemplary.

We hope that you read this activity report of what we have achieved over the last year and feel proud of how truly impactful your support has been. The longevity of your support must also be highlighted, as the lasting results of the work we have done together are astonishing. We have witnessed the transformation of both individuals and wider communities that have developed and flourished in response to the expertly devised care they received.

On behalf of everyone at Al-Ayn, from the fundraising offices to the field offices, we would like to sincerely thank you for everything that you are doing to improve lives, lift people out of poverty and bring hope to so many thousands of children that otherwise would have faced bleak future prospects, had it not been for your support. Whether you gave your time, donated, or simply believed in our cause, we are humbled by your selflessness and generosity.

In 2024, we hope to build on the many successes of 2023, expanding our reach even further across the globe and delivering our life-changing services to even more orphaned children that need your support. We recognise that there is so much more to do in the year to come and we remain committed to doing so, as the demand for our work sadly continues to increase.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Khaja, Director

About Us

Al-Ayn Social Care Foundation (UK) is part of Al-Ayn Social Care Foundation International, an umbrella body overseeing 14 national members across the world. Among these, 3 are field offices actively distributing aid to orphaned children and their families in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Ghana. The remaining members serve as fundraising offices, raising awareness of our mission to support orphaned children living in poverty.

We all share the same objective to empower orphaned children and provide them with comprehensive support and services.

This year, we reached a significant milestone in supporting over 100,000 orphaned children and their families every month.

Over 170,000 orphaned children have been supported since Al-Ayn's inception over 18 years ago.

By providing families under our care with essential resources and holistic support, we aim to transform their lives, enabling them to build brighter futures for themselves and their communities.

We Do This Through:



TRANSPARENCY

We comply with international standards in handling and disbursing money and donations.



DIGNITY

We ensure that our services are of the highest quality and promote the dignity of beneficiaries.



EMPOWERMENT

We provide for beneficiaries' needs completely so that they are free to concentrate on living their lives as they wish and fulfilling their potential.



EFFECTIVENESS

We continuously evaluate and improve the services we provide, to ensure beneficiaries have a positive contribution to society.

Key Achievements in 2023

10,000

Additional children sponsored in Iraq, bringing the total number of children benefitting from comprehensive care to 100,000

112

Additional children supported in Ghana, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 208. This assistance encompasses financial aid, nutritional support, access to healthcare, and housing support.

The Hikayati Centre, a state-of-the-art facility for child development completed and in operation in Iraq.

104

Youth in Iraq provided with the financial means to enrol into university.

171

Fuel for heating distributed to families in Afghanistan.

514

Ongoing support for children in Afghanistan, ensuring they receive financial assistance, nutritional aid, access to healthcare, and housing support.

4

New Luminous Stars centres completed and in operation in Iraq, providing medical aid, psychological rehabilitation, educational support, and vocational training to over 31,000 orphaned children and their families living in impoverished areas.

19,737

Medical treatments for orphaned children provided or facilitated by Al-Ayn.

370

Vocational training courses completed.

683

Blankets distributed to orphaned children and their families in Afghanistan.

470+

Children in Iraq registered for psychological rehabilitation.

2,000+

Volunteers across the world supported Al-Ayn in its mission.

37,215

Ramadan food packages distributed across Iraq, Ghana and Afghanistan to orphaned families.

2

United Nations participations at the Human Rights Council in Geneva and the Economic and Social Council in New York.

Al-Ayn attended the United Nations' 61st Commission for Social Development in New York for the first time.

Authorisation

Al-Ayn first registered as a non-governmental organisation in 2006 in Iraq, today Al-Ayn has offices in Australia, Afghanistan, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Iraq, Germany, Ghana, Norway, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Since its establishment, Al-Ayn has enjoyed the direct support and blessings of Al-Sayyid Al-Sistani. This is renewed every 4 years and encompasses his authorisation (Ijaza) to receive religious dues including Khums (both parts), Zakat, Kaffara, and Fidya, in addition to encouraging supporters to donate towards Al-Ayn's various Sadaqa Jariya projects and to leave a portion of their inheritance to Al-Ayn. In 2023, Al-Ayn implemented key new components in the Ijaza released in November 2022.

This includes receiving religious dues for:

- Widowed mothers in addition to orphaned children.
- The health needs of widowed mothers and guardians in addition to orphaned children.
- Orphaned children in regions outside of Iraq, including Afghanistan, and Ghana.

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

We renew our thanks and appreciation to those working for, supporting, and contributing to the charitable activities of this pioneering foundation, for the distinctive care it provides to our beloved orphans and to needy individuals, including those who are widowed, ill, and displaced. We congratulate them on the expansion of (the Foundation's) work and its inclusion of countries other than Iraq. We ask Allah Almighty to grant everyone further success in continuing this blessed journey, and to increase their reward. We have given you permission with regards to what you have requested, in relation to the areas mentioned, conditional on the supervision of the eminent honourable scholar Sheikh Amjed Riyadh, may his support be maintained, with the appointment of the eminent scholar Sheikh Nazar Yousef, may his support be maintained, as his deputy. This permission is for a period of five years. I advise everyone to invoke the observance of Allah Almighty in private and in public, and to observe precaution, for it is the way to salvation.

May Allah's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you.



26 Muharram 1444

Ali Al-Husseini Al-Sistani

Read the full Ijaza by scanning the QR code below:



Your Khums

20%

In 2023, thousands of supporters around the world were able fulfil their religious obligations with Al-Ayn, enabling us to expand our work and support even more orphaned children.

Khums, which means 'one-fifth' in Arabic, refers to a religious tax levied on specific items according to Islamic law. It serves as an important obligation for Muslims seeking to fulfil their religious duties. Khums mainly applies to surplus income derived from various sources, including earnings and gains.

Khums donations received by Al-Ayn were used to provide essential support to orphaned children, primarily in the form of monthly financial allowances to lift them out of poverty. This applies to both Sahm Al-Imam and Sahm Al-Sada donations. Khums donations also enabled us to:

- Cover orphaned children's surgical or medical fees in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Build or equip health clinics in Iraq
- Provide school kits to orphaned children in Iraq
- Provide vocational training courses to orphaned youth in Iraq
- Build new homes for orphaned families for orphaned children in Iraq
- Repair homes in Iraq
- Provide a vital financial lifeline to orphaned children via our Sponsorship Fund

Al-Ayn's Khums Calculator

Al-Ayn's scholar-approved Khums calculator is the most comprehensive and accurate online Khums calculator to date. In 2023, supporters were able to find out how much Khums to pay with confidence and ease, and were sent comprehensive reports within seconds, for free.

Scholar support provided by Al-Ayn

In 2023, Al-Ayn assisted supporters in calculating their Khums by arranging for a scholar to call them and answer their queries.



Scan the QR code below to discover our calculator.



Sadaqa Box

The most recognisable feature of Al-Ayn is its Sadaqa Box. With special permission from Al-Sayyid Al-Sistani, money placed in an Al-Ayn Sadaqa Box is considered "received charity" (Sadaqa Maqbootha). This means that the rewards associated with Sadaqa are immediately received, as if the charity was given directly to the person in need or their guardian. 100% of Sadaqa Box donations are spent on orphaned children living in poverty.

In 2023, our Sadaqa Box initiative helped us continue to connect with communities across the country. Our committed volunteers in different cities assisted in making, distributing, and collecting the Sadaqa Boxes. Thousands of people have donated to the Boxes, and these funds go towards our Sponsorship Fund, supporting orphaned children awaiting private sponsorship.

7,913 UK Sadaqa Boxes collected in 2023

8,421 UK Sadaqa Boxes distributed in 2023

This resulted in 1,191 orphaned children being supported through Sadaqa Boxes alone

Al-Ayn is also committed to ensuring that all electronic Sadaqa donated via the website or mobile app, achieves the status of Sadaqa Maqbootha (Received Sadaqa) by the end of the next working day.

Al-Ayn App

Thousands of our supporters across the world use the mobile app to give Sadaqa with ease, keep track of donations and request Sadaqa Boxes. In 2023, our app received around 100 donations a day from UK supporters alone, a number that doubled during the Ramadan season.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, orphaned children's lives have been positively transformed - all in just a few taps!

The equivalent of over 430 orphaned children were supported through the UK app alone!




Sadaqa Jariya

Sadaqa Jariya is one of the most powerful ways of giving in Islam since the benefits of this type of charity are reaped not just by the recipient, but also by the giver.

Since its inception, Al-Ayn has implemented over 200 Sadaqa Jariya projects, and we are committed to developing more to ensure long-term support for orphaned children and their families.

In 2023, these projects included:



4 New Luminous Stars centres, providing comprehensive care to thousands of orphaned children in Iraq

PROVINCE	COMPLETED	BEING COMPLETE	UNDER CONSIDERATION	TOTAL
BAGHDAD	21	8	28	57
NAJAF	17	6	16	39
KARBALA	9	3	16	28
AL MUTHANNA	5	1	1	7
BASRA	6	2	3	11
BABIL	6	4	9	19
WASIT	2	2	3	7
AL DIWANIYAH	6	1	9	16
SALAH AL-DIN	1	1	3	5
DIYALA	1	0	2	3
NASIRIYAH	0	2	1	3
MAYSAN	0	2	1	3
KIRKUK	0	1	1	2
	74	33	93	200

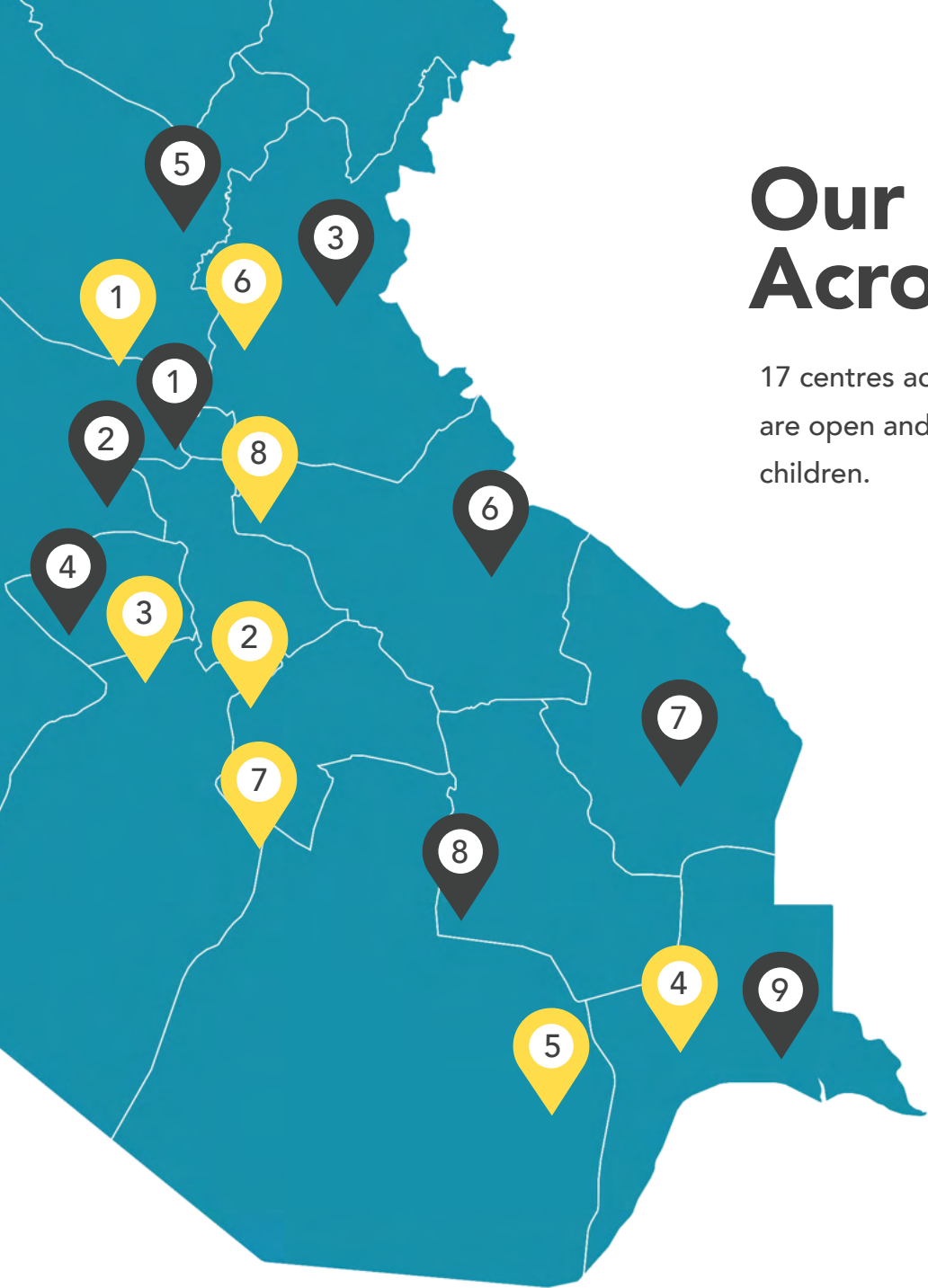
Luminous Stars Centres

Our Luminous Stars centres in Iraq serve as safe havens for over **100,000 orphaned children and families**, offering them access to high quality healthcare, psychological rehabilitation, vocational training, and educational programmes. The staff at our Luminous Stars centres are trained professionals who prioritise the well-being and holistic development of vulnerable children and families. In 2023, Al-Ayn opened 4 new centres in Muthanna, Basra, Diyala, and Babil.

The centres serve the following key purposes:

- A financial aid distribution centre, that includes a dedicated section to review and address children's medical care needs.
- A medical centre that functions as a miniature hospital, with specialist clinics for paediatrics, dentistry, optometry, ENT, and general practice. Our clinics also comprise a pharmacy, laboratory and an X-ray room.
- A centre for psychological rehabilitation and counselling.
- A playroom with fun games, where many children discover new hobbies.
- A 'mall' area for children to choose their clothing and shoe.
- Vocational training centres that cover a range of fields, including business management, IT skills, upholstery, cooking, mobile repair and more.





Our Centres Across Iraq

17 centres across Iraq, 8 of which are open and serving orphaned children.



8 Completed

1. Kadhimiya, Baghdad
2. Al-Hira, Najaf
3. Diwaniya, Qadisiyah
4. Al-Zubair, Basra
5. Al-Madina, Basra
6. Qazaniya, Diyala
7. Al-Samawa, Muthanna
8. Al-Hilla, Babil




9 Under Construction

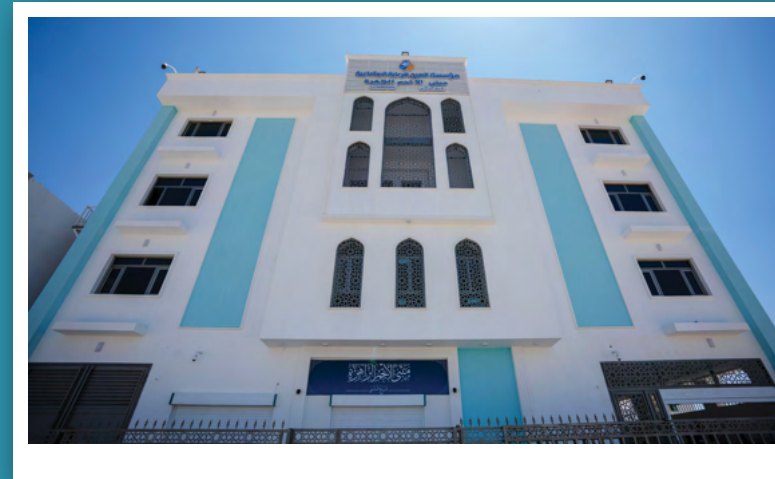
1. Al-Rusafa, Baghdad
2. Al-Markaz, Karbala
3. Balad, Salah al-Din
4. Al-Markaz, Najaf
5. Al-Musayib, Babil
6. Al-Kut, Wasit
7. Al-Amara, Maysan
8. Al-Nasiriya, Dhi Qar
9. Al-Markaz, Basra



Al-Samawa, Muthanna


 **1,312** square metres across 4 floors

 Serving **4,805** orphaned children and their families in the area



Zubair, Basra


 **1,834** square metres across 4 floors

 Serving **14,604** orphaned children and their families in the area



Qazaniya, Diyala


 **300** square metres across 4 floors

 Serving **3,410** orphaned children and their families in the area



Al-Hilla, Babil

 **1,500** square metres across 4 floors

 Serving **8,263** orphaned children and their families in the area

HIKAYATI'S VISION

is to empower vulnerable young people to achieve mental well-being, realise their potential, become productive members of society and the leaders of tomorrow.

In May 2023, Al-Ayn opened the doors to the Hikayati centre, a ground-breaking purpose-built new centre in Najaf, Iraq which aims to foster the well-being, resilience and life chances of orphaned children and young people. The fact that the centre opened exactly 20 years after the start of the war in Iraq is a promise of hope and positivity to the children of a country which has experienced years of conflict and turmoil.

Objectives of the Hikayati Programme

To encourage orphaned children and young people to develop crucial life-skills, resilience and well-being.

To provide orphaned children and young people with long-term mentoring which will provide emotional support, enhance school return and retention.

To enable the early detection of any mental or physical health difficulties, family or financial stressors, educational challenges or safeguarding concerns and activate early referral to the appropriate support services within and outside of Al-Ayn.



HIKAYATI

which translates to "My Story" is a purpose-built child-centred building located in the Adala district of Najaf. Children and young people who come to the Hikayati centre, make use of the cutting edge recreational and educational facilities of the centre in parallel to undertaking a thorough, evidence-informed programme which has been specially designed to develop their resilience, emotional well-being, and life-skills.

Keeping to the Hikayati name, the centre's design and architecture are inspired by children's story books. All the rooms, including the library, theatre, indoor swimming pool, museums, and prayer area were designed to cultivate a creative environment where the children can learn, grow, and use their imaginations.



The programme development included a research and development phase and visiting and learning from similar projects and programmes in various countries. **Children in Al-Ayn's care were consulted as to what was important to them and what they would want to see in Hikayati.** External consultants from Great Ormond Street Hospital (UK) and the charity 'Yes Futures' were also consulted throughout.

The aim of the Hikayati programme is to provide orphaned children with programmes to enhance their well-being, mental health and life opportunities through a combination of education, play, leisure activities, mentoring, therapy and spiritual guidance. Every child receives a programme that is personalised to their needs, with specially designed workshops and long-term mentoring. Each child is allocated to a mentor who supports them during the programme, and then continues to mentor them long-term. This is to ensure that every child knows who to turn to if they are concerned, need guidance and advice or are in need of help.

We understand that many of the children have experienced adverse childhood experiences, that is why all our Hikayati staff have been trained specifically on trauma awareness and how to handle these sensitive symptoms as they arise.



Once the programmes were developed, they were peer reviewed by a network of over 40 specialists from bereavement, psychology, speech and language therapy, counselling and educational backgrounds. Prior to its launch, all the Hikayati programmes were piloted in Iraq and in the UK where children's opinions and feedback were gathered and taken into account.

Child Sponsorship

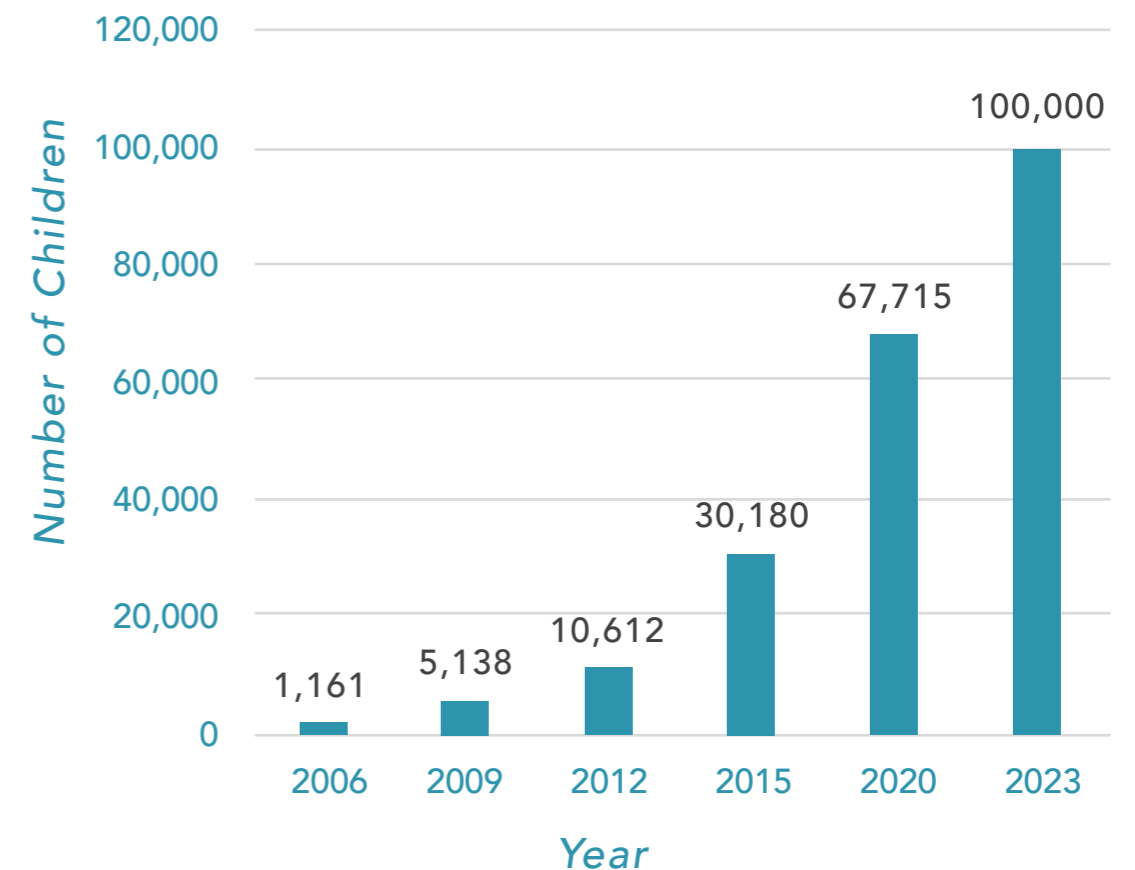
Our Child Sponsorship Programme provides supporters with an opportunity to transform lives. Through expert-led research, we have determined the amount needed to lift an orphaned child in Iraq above the poverty line, enabling us to provide a comprehensive care system that gives the child access to:

-  FINANCIAL AID
-  EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT
-  QUALITY HEALTHCARE, INCLUDING TREATMENTS & MEDICATION
-  RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
-  PSYCHOLOGICAL REHABILITATION & THERAPY
-  CLOTHING AND SHOES
-  SAFE HOUSING
-  ADDITIONAL SEASONAL RELIEF DURING RAMADAN, EID, MUHARRAM, WINTER AND MORE
-  VOCATIONAL TRAINING

In 2023, an additional 10,000 orphaned children joined our Sponsorship Programme in Iraq, bringing the total number of children benefitting from comprehensive care to 100,000.



Orphaned Children Sponsored



Medical Care & Psychological Rehabilitation

Our health clinics contain the latest equipment and devices and are staffed by expert medical practitioners who offer free long-term healthcare to children, including regular check-ups and ongoing care for chronic conditions.

Medical professionals dedicate their time and services to the centre and liaise with hospitals and physicians inside and outside of Iraq so that orphaned children with more complex needs can be supported.

Our clinics provide a wide range of medical support, including dental care, general medical care and optometry.



Since its inception, Al-Ayn has carried out:

OVER
116,000
MEDICAL
CASES TREATED

OVER
2,600
SURGERIES
COMPLETED

OVER
3,600
PSYCHOLOGICAL
REHABILITATION
CASES REGISTERED

In 2023, Al-Ayn facilitated 19,000+ medical treatments for children and their families.

Al-Ayn's Psychological Rehabilitation programme focuses on monitoring the psychological well-being of the orphaned children in our care and addressing cases requiring specialised psychological interventions.

We employ evidence-based mental health interventions, such as cognitive-behavioural therapy, group counselling, and other medical therapies, to cater to the unique needs of each child. With over 3,500 registered cases in Iraq, our commitment ensures that orphaned children receive tailored support, addressing their specific needs and contributing to their overall well-being and development.

Educational Support

Al-Ayn is dedicated to providing orphaned children and young adults with the resources and support they need to thrive academically. We believe that education is the key to unlocking their full potential, and we are committed to helping them stay in school and succeed. This year, we provided:



SCHOOL KITS

Every child of school age under our care was provided with school uniforms, school bags, and stationery.



TUITION CLASSES

We offer tuition support to orphaned children who are struggling in particular subjects. Our dedicated teachers provide personalised guidance to help unlock their strengths so that they can thrive academically and beyond.



UNIVERSITY FEES

We covered the cost of tuition fees for university students and provided financial incentives for children who are excelling academically. Over 700 of the orphaned youth we support are currently enrolled into university. In 2023, we provided 104 orphaned youth with the financial means to go to university.



We aim to empower the next generation by giving them the opportunity to thrive in school and beyond.



Vocational Training

We understand that not all orphaned youth are able to continue with education, which is why our vocational training initiative aids in the independence and transition of orphaned children into adulthood. The vocational courses are selected based on a study carried out to identify professions that are not oversaturated and will always be required in society.

Mobile phone repairs, IT skills, hairdressing, sewing, cooking, and handicrafts are just some of the training courses available for orphaned youth and widowed mothers to enrol in.

**TO DATE, WE HAVE HAD OVER
1,000 VOCATIONAL TRAINING GRADUATES.**

Al-Ayn offers the resources they require for training, including all necessary tools and equipment, transportation expenses, and meals during training hours. The training also includes seminars on project management and advice on how to apply their skills in the workplace.

**IN 2023, OVER 370 ORPHANED YOUTH AND
WIDOWED MOTHERS GRADUATED FROM
VOCATIONAL TRAINING.**



MICROFINANCE

Al-Ayn has supported orphaned youth with microfinance loans to start their own businesses and achieve financial independence. This programme is primarily aimed at graduates of the Luminous Stars vocational training centres, although it is also open to other applicants. We support entrepreneurs in delivering a business plan and agree on a repayment schedule with them. Examples of successful projects in the past include mobile repair shops, hairdressers, sewing ventures, an aluminium factory and more.

Afghanistan

In 2021, Al-Ayn expanded its efforts to Afghanistan. Building upon our successful model developed over the past 18 years in Iraq, our experience of working in a conflict zone positioned us well to establish operations in Afghanistan and begin supporting orphaned children living in poverty around the world.

Over 3.5 million children in Afghanistan are orphaned. Millions of children have been forced to live without essential services such as education and healthcare, which has led to a major humanitarian crisis (UNICEF, 2022).

Al-Ayn's office in Afghanistan is located in Kabul. Going beyond financial assistance, our approach in Afghanistan strives to provide orphaned children and their families with essential necessities.

IN 2023, AL-AYN PROVIDED MONTHLY FINANCIAL AID TO 514 ORPHANED CHILDREN IN AFGHANISTAN AS WELL AS RAMADAN FOOD BASKETS, EID CLOTHES AND TOYS AND QURBANI MEAT TO ALL THOSE UNDER OUR CARE.

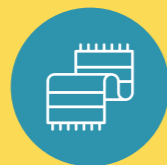
Our local teams identified the needs of orphaned children and their families, this enabled us to provide tailored support in 2023.

In 2023, we provided



171

Ramadan food baskets to orphaned families



514

Blankets for the winter months



551

Eid gifts for orphaned children



171

Orphaned families were provided with fuel for heating



514

Warm clothing packages for orphaned children

Fostering a Cycle of Empowerment



MEET SOMAYA

Somaya has experienced how financial constraints limit access to basic necessities. Her mother works tirelessly to provide for the family's needs, often knitting quilts throughout the night to make ends meet and ensure there is some food in the home. Despite their struggles, Somaya's mother instils in her children the value of education and the importance of dreaming big.

Seven-year-old Somaya's aspirations revolve around her passion for drawing and her desire to become a skilled artist. She dreams of capturing her family's memories through her artwork. She also aspires to become a civil engineer and sees a better future where she can build a four-story house for her mother and family. Somaya views her mother as her role model, because despite her own challenges, she has always seen her mother display kindness, bravery, and unwavering love for her and her siblings.

Al-Ayn became a beacon of hope for Somaya and her family. The assistance provided helped alleviate their financial burdens significantly. The support includes essential items such as clothing, winter fuel, carpets, and essentials. The family's living conditions have also improved, allowing the children to attend a school and access better educational resources.

Ghana

In 2021, Al-Ayn International established its operations in Ghana, and in 2022 initiated its projects dedicated to providing assistance to orphaned children and their families. Our mission in Ghana mirrors the triumph we have achieved in other areas, guaranteeing that orphaned children have access to secure homes, necessary healthcare, educational aid, and a range of crucial services that foster their overall well-being and potential.

The dimensions of poverty in Ghana extend beyond monetary indicators. Deprivation spans across various facets of life, encompassing inadequate access to education, healthcare, housing, and sanitation among the most vulnerable populations (UNICEF, 2022).

The Al-Ayn Ghana office is located in Accra. We now operate in most of the Southeast and central regions of Ghana, providing financial assistance to orphaned children, as well as family assistance grants, housing assistance and medical support extending to widowed mothers.

IN 2023, AL-AYN PROVIDED SUPPORT TO 181 ORPHANED CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY IN GHANA.

The needs of orphaned families were identified by our local teams and actions were implemented to support those under our care.

The following were distributed in 2023



37

Ramadan food baskets to orphaned families



106

Eid gifts for orphaned children



46

Qurbani meat parcels distributed to orphaned families

Planting Seeds of Hope



MEET KHIRAT

"I love playing with my elder sister Hibatullah, we do everything together. When I'm in school, the maths classes are my favourite, and my teacher is always helpful; but I also really enjoy my science lessons. I love going to school because my best friend and I play games together and spend time reading different books. When I'm older, I want to be able to travel, and the first country I want to visit is India and try all of the different foods!"

We are committed to ensuring that children like Khirat have access to the tools and opportunities they need to overcome their difficult experiences, and have brighter futures.



The United Nations

Al-Ayn’s work for orphaned children living in poverty has been recognised by the United Nations. In 2016, we were granted **special consultative status with the United Nations’ Economic and Social Council.**

This year, Al-Ayn submitted an oral statement at the 52nd Human Rights Council in Geneva, and a written statement to the High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council in New York. Our statement informed the international community of our ongoing work in Iraq and our expansions in Afghanistan and Ghana. Al-Ayn also attended the 61st Commission for Social Development in New York to learn more about how we can represent orphaned children to the international community.

SINCE 2016, AL-AYN HAS HAD A TOTAL OF 17 ENGAGEMENTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS, CONSISTING OF ORAL STATEMENTS, WRITTEN STATEMENTS, AND A SIDE SESSION.



Watch Al-Ayn at the Human Rights Council



Events

Hikayati at the Power of Play Conference:



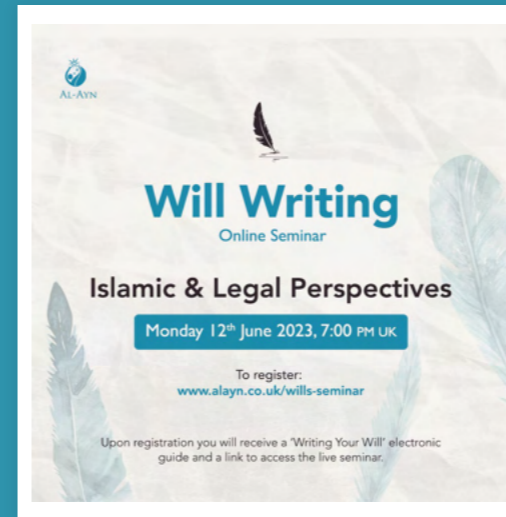
On 7th October we had the opportunity to present our Hikayati programme to a group of over 60 professionals in Oxford at the Power of Play Conference hosted by Clear Sky. Clear Sky is a charity that provides mental health services for vulnerable children through therapeutic services and provides support and education for families and professionals working with them.

At this conference, we were able to educate professionals and a wider audience on how Hikayati provides orphaned children with programmes to enhance well-being, mental health, life opportunities through education, play, leisure activities, mentoring, therapy, and spiritual guidance. Hikayati recognises the impact play has on the growth and development of a child and ensure that their environment reinforces play to create a positive learning experience for the children.

We look forward to building relationships with the wider community and spreading awareness of Al-Ayn through our Hikayati programme.

At Al-Ayn, we regularly organise events and workshops for our community.

Here are some examples of events we hosted in 2023



Will Writing Support and Seminars

Legacy giving is a crucial component of our work.

In 2023, Al-Ayn held its annual Will Writing Seminar to delve deeper into the topic and answer any questions our supporters had.

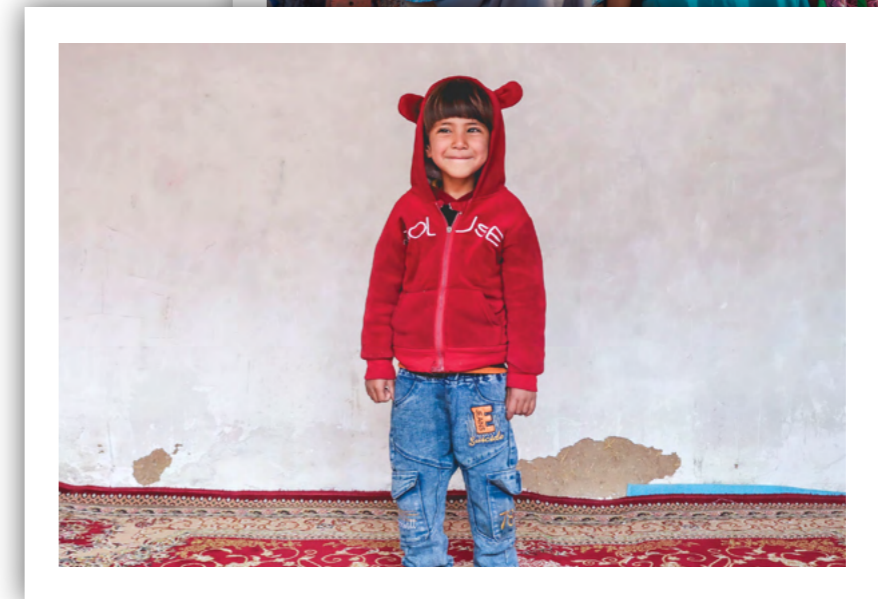
Due to the demand expressed by our supporters, we published a guide titled: *Writing Your Will: Islamic and Legal Perspectives* to provide support to those wishing to find out more.

The guide highlights the issues you need to consider when meeting with a solicitor to write your will, to ensure that your inheritance is distributed in line with Islamic requirements, and that the guardianship of your children after you is in line with your wishes.

Al-Ayn has facilitated a number of wills which have had legacies bestowed to Al-Ayn.

Plans for 2024

Al-Ayn aims to build on over 18 years of experience to ensure its services have a lasting impact. This involves improving existing initiatives, expanding to different regions to support more orphaned children in need, and expanding reach to children in various areas across Iraq, Afghanistan, and Ghana.



His Eminence Al-Sayyid Al-Sistani
'Your service to orphans and your care for them is the most precious thing you offer to your hereafter and the most beautiful thing you do in your world.'



Get Involved

We believe that volunteers play a vital role in our mission. Their contributions allow us to provide opportunities that benefit both our local community and orphaned children in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Ghana. Over 2,000 volunteers across the globe have become part of the Al-Ayn family, each making a unique and valuable contribution.

Broaden your skillset and gain valuable experience with us today while also helping to make a lasting impact on the lives of orphaned children in need.

BANK DETAILS

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*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

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