



Annual Donor Report 2023

Southern Women's Aid Network (SWAN)

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swanlondon.org Registered UK Charity: 1188649



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Chairperson's Message



Dear SWAN Supporters and Well-Wishers,

I am delighted to provide you with an overview of SWAN's financial performance and the impactful initiatives we've undertaken over the past year. Your unwavering support has played a crucial role in enabling us to make a positive difference in the lives of individuals and communities both locally and internationally.

In terms of financials, our total income for the year amounted to £494,237.04, comprising generous donations, Gift Aid contributions totaling £4,085.50, and grants amounting to £15,403. Our total expenditure, directed towards initiatives in the UK and overseas, reached £459,633.10.

Locally, in South London, SWAN continues to address social issues through multifaceted approaches. Our weekly food banks and three soup kitchens have provided essential sustenance to our beneficiaries, ensuring that no fresh food goes to waste through collaborations with other food banks. Moreover, initiatives such as the refugee kids art club and monthly tea and talks for adults contribute to the emotional and mental well-being of our beneficiaries.

Internationally, our impact has been profound, with monthly food pack distributions in countries such as Pakistan, Uganda, Afghanistan, and Palestine. Empowerment projects, including a sewing program for widows and the establishment of the SWAN Afghanistan bakery, further our commitment to building capacity and promoting self-sufficiency in underserved communities.

SWAN's holistic approach to positive change is evident in our efforts to provide housing, improve access to clean water, and contribute to the mobility and independence of individuals with disabilities through empowerment projects and wheelchair initiatives. Collaborating with an orphanage for the past 3 years in Ivory Coast and more

recently in our SWAN school in Pakistan, we support orphans and poor children with essentials and education, furthering our commitment to fostering inclusivity and improving quality of life.

Our relief efforts have extended to Gaza following the recent attacks, where we have provided trucks loaded with water, medical and surgical supplies, food and hygiene packs, and baby milk. This initiative aims to alleviate the suffering of those impacted by the challenging circumstances in the region, highlighting SWAN's commitment to addressing urgent needs in crisis situations. Our work will continue in Gaza for the foreseeable future.

Our financial model, exemplified by the SWAN500 project, where 500 people donate £1 each week, has supported 56 families in unique cases through charity donations and also with zakat money for eligible families. This initiative showcases the collective power of small contributions in making a meaningful impact.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone in the community and organisations in London, including Don's Local Action Group,

The Felix Project, Fareshare, Lidl, and Gails Bakery, for their weekly donations of food, contributing to the provision of ambient and fresh produce to struggling families in our community.

In conclusion, SWAN's multifaceted efforts, both locally and internationally, highlight our commitment to creating positive change in the world. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to making an even greater impact in the coming year.

Thank you/Jazak'Allah Khair for being an integral part of the SWAN family.

Warm regards,
Saiqa Ali - Chair/CEO



Financial Summary

Income

Donations and legacies	£494,237.04
Gift Aid	£4,085.50
Grants	£15,403
Total Income	£494,237.04

Expenditure

Total Expenditure on in the UK and Overseas	£459,633.10
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SWAN has made a significant impact on the communities we serve by implementing a multifaceted approach to address various social issues. In South London, SWAN continues our weekly food banks and three weekly soup kitchens which provides for 9840 beneficiaries. We also collaborate with other food banks to ensure no fresh food we have is left to waste and weekly donate our food supplied to St Martins Community Centre aiding more than our database of beneficiaries. These initiatives provide essential food and sustenance to those in need, helping to alleviate hunger and food insecurity among vulnerable populations. By offering regular access to nutritious meals, SWAN has played a crucial role in improving the well-being of individuals and families in the region. As well as working to cater to the emotional needs and mental welfare of these beneficiaries through our refugee kids art club and monthly tea and talks for adults.

Furthermore, SWAN has expanded its efforts beyond immediate food assistance by initiating workshops that empower community members with valuable skills and knowledge as well as social groups such as art clubs for refugee children and monthly tea and talk sessions. These workshops and clubs aim to foster self-sufficiency and equip

individuals with the tools to improve their lives in the long term and provide a sense of normality for children otherwise living in crowded hostels. Additionally, we provide travel support to those seeking safety and asylum, facilitating the resettlement process for displaced individuals in the UK so they can overcome these obstacles that they face to regularise their stay.



On the international front, our impact is equally profound. We have been involved in monthly food pack distributions in multiple countries such as Pakistan, Uganda, Afghanistan and Palestine ensuring that



individuals in underserved communities abroad have access to essential sustenance. The charity's empowerment projects empower local populations through various initiatives, building capacity and promoting self-sufficiency an example of this is our Sewing project that has taught so far 40 widows how to sew and we are providing them with sewing machines to begin their own businesses as well as stitch their own clothes for themselves and their family.

We also have been providing bread daily in Kabul and Kandahar, Afghanistan. We have extended our efforts by building our own SWAN Afghanistan bakery that will not only provide free bread to the local residents but also bring job opportunities to those around the area.

We have extended our efforts into housing, as we have constructed homes for those in need, enhancing living conditions and providing shelter in Pakistan and Palestine. We

have also worked to improve access to clean water by installing water pumps, addressing a fundamental need in regions with limited resources.

Additionally, we have worked on empowerment projects wheelchair projects contribute to the mobility and independence of individuals with disabilities, fostering inclusivity and improved quality of life.

We also collaborate with an orphanage in Ivory Coast to provide uniform, education and essentials to the orphans. A recent achievement is that of our own SWAN school in Lahore, Pakistan for 100 students furthering the development of communities in Pakistan and giving hope to the children in that area mostly orphans or from families that cannot afford education for their children.

SWAN's multifaceted efforts, both locally and internationally, highlight our holistic approach to creating positive change in the world.

London

Food Assistance Programmes

Between 1 in 3 and 1 in 4 Londoners are living below the poverty line, with a sharp 50% increase in recent years in the number of working families that fall within this category. Rising housing costs and an inconsistent use of London Living Wage mean that despite increases in employment levels, London remains behind other parts of the UK in terms of poverty.

Our programmes are needed in South London for several reasons contributing to the need for soup kitchens including:

Poverty:

South London, like many urban areas, has pockets of poverty where individuals and families struggle to meet their basic needs, including access to regular and nutritious meals.

Income Inequality:

Disparities in income levels contribute to food insecurity. Most of our beneficiaries find it challenging to afford sufficient food due to low wages, unemployment, or underemployment. Their circumstances are impacted by the cost of living, including housing, utilities and food. This is a strain on the budgets of low-income individuals and makes it difficult for them to afford regular meals.

Homelessness:

Homeless people without stable housing have limited access to cooking facilities and may rely on community resources such as soup kitchens for meals.

Lack of Access to Social Services:

Many of our beneficiaries face barriers in accessing social services or government assistance programs. Our food initiatives provide a more immediate solution to address their hunger.



We are very grateful for the support we receive from the community and organisations in London. We receive weekly donations of food from Don's Local Action Group, The Felix Project, Fareshare, Lidl and Gails Bakery. These donations contribute towards providing ambient and fresh produce to struggling families in our community.



Foodbank

The SWAN Foodbank at South London Islamic Centre operated by our amazing volunteers which has been running since 2021 has a database of over 900 families, providing 40+ food packs per week, totaling 2,460 food parcels (averaging 4 people per family), supporting 9,840 beneficiaries. Our Foodbank plays a crucial role in providing a safety net for those facing food insecurity.



Soup Kitchens

A Soup Kitchen is a place where a hot meal is offered to those in need of a hot meal for free or sometimes at a below-market. Frequently located in lower-income neighbourhoods, soup kitchens are generally often run by volunteers. There is a rough estimate of 25 known soup kitchens across London, with SWAN running three of them.

At our Soup Kitchens we provide hot food, fruit, snacks, and water at three Soup Kitchens in Croydon, Thornton Heath, and Clapham, providing approx 1000 meals a month. Since January we have provided a total of 11,760 hot meals, together with fruit, vegetables and cooking items for families.

Social Wellbeing Projects

The SWAN500 project is where 500 people donate £1 each week so that SWAN can use these funds for emergency relief in the UK or abroad. With these funds we can help families on a case by case basis with £500 to go to bills, debt or where most needed. This allows us to cater to those who fall between the cracks of charity missions and to not miss anyone in need of support.

This year through this program we have supported 39 families unique cases through charity donations for SWAN 500 and 17 families that were zakat worthy with zakat money. Totaling 56 families helped through our Swann 500 scheme. That's more than one family a week in a year, thanks to our supporters.



Our Work Around the World

Afghanistan



Bread Project

Much of the population of Afghanistan are unable to meet their basic life needs. More than 50% of the population is living under the poverty line. Since the exchange of government in August 2021, Afghan widows, orphans and poor people have been facing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, in part due to economic collapse and severe ongoing drought. One of the most egregious consequences of these challenges has been the effect on food security across

Afghanistan, with millions of people in the country now experiencing acute hunger.

Based on our needs assessment, considering the current condition of widows, orphans and poor people, we provide weekly bread distributions, distributed in Kabul and Kandahar province and surrounding areas, where the rate of hunger is considered high. We currently distribute bread packs (consisting of 3 pieces of bread per pack) per person. Bread is distributed weekly in Kabul. In Kandahar we have a SWAN bakery which

employs local bakers and provides bread three times a week to anyone in need. Orphan and widow families are considered the key beneficiaries of the project.

We have distributed 1945 bread packs (each with 3 bread) weekly, 7780 each month in Kabul. In Kandahar we have distributed over 1400 bread packs weekly, 5600 monthly, totaling 447,350 in the year thus far. We aim to increase distributions in 2024 from the SWAN bakery.

£50 provides 150 families with bread for a week.



Vocational Training Centre

The Afghanistan Vocational Skills Centre has been established in Kabul province. The Centre provides theoretical and practical learning courses to both male and female students. Each course is designed so that lessons are 30% theoretical and 70% practical. From 2005 until 2022, the Centre saw the graduation of 8,515 students in total, including 6,865 male students and 1,650 female students. The Centre offers courses such as construction, mechanics, electrical engineering, sewing, cooking, plumbing, carpentry, computer science and English. The Centre is a valued institution and each year 750 students are able to obtain a professional qualification and skillset in their chosen department.

SWAN will help to provide 120 beneficiaries with educational courses and a professional qualification in their chosen profession. The project will have a positive impact on the local community and support efforts for peace & social stability. It is designed to bring about effective change in the community, in

order to encourage beneficiaries to become self-sufficient and assist them in their employment.

120 students will receive continuous educational development and professional training and support to earn a qualification in their chosen course. During a period of nationwide economic difficulty, the support students receive at the Centre will encourage them to obtain employment and bolster the economic growth and development of the community. The Centre will be supported with funding on an annual basis, and students will have a wide selection of well-designed educational courses to choose from. This project will strengthen the fundamental pillars of society and most importantly will work to ameliorate positive change on the Afghan community.

£100 Annual Sponsorship
for one student



Gaza

- Refurbished 11 houses
- Provided 60 Food Parcels to the most needy every month
- Provided winter clothing for children

Ivory Coast

- Supported disabled children with mattresses, wheelchairs and clothes
- Built 2 water wells
- Built a mosque and provided 300 Qurans
- Provided monthly food packs to widows and orphans



Pakistan

- Vocational program for widows, training 40 widows in 2022
- Sewing training program, providing sewing machines to graduates to start their own businesses
- Ramadan: Provided bread and food packs
- School in Pakistan

The establishment of our first SWAN primary school for 100 orphans and poor children in Lahore, Pakistan, holds significant benefits for both the children and the community opened in November 2023. This initiative provides crucial access to education for 5 classes of 20 orphaned and poor children each, will break down barriers they may face due to financial constraints or lack of family support.

Beyond academic learning, the school fosters holistic development, addressing emotional, social, and physical needs. Additionally, the school serves as a community hub, promoting a sense of belonging and providing health and nutritional support.

£250 Annual Sponsorship of one student

Rohingya Coding Classes



Umme Salman Safura Begum Girls Madrasa and Orphanage, in collaboration with SWAN and implementing partner DREAMERS ACADEMY, has been successfully conducting a Coding for Kids program aimed at empowering Rohingya female children with essential coding and programming skills. The program focuses on fostering digital literacy, expanding opportunities, and promoting empowerment in the digital age.

Learning coding empowers children by providing them with valuable skills to navigate the digital world. In today's increasingly technology-driven society, coding has become a crucial skill for many industries and professions. By equipping Rohingya kids with coding skills, they can gain confidence and a sense of empowerment as they develop the ability to create, innovate, and problem-solve using technology.

Learning the skill of coding and programming can be particularly important for Rohingya kids. Rohingya children may face challenges in accessing formal education due to displacement, conflict, or other difficult circumstances. Learning coding can

provide them with a non-traditional educational opportunity that is accessible even in challenging situations. With coding skills, Rohingya kids can acquire valuable knowledge and skills that can potentially open up economic opportunities and empower them to overcome educational barriers.

Thus far our programme has successfully covered 82 classes across all seven batches. Each batch has completed a considerable portion of the syllabus, with Batch#5 completing the full 13 classes. The students have not only acquired essential coding skills but have also demonstrated their understanding through the completion of 13 coding projects per batch. The overall learning and implementation percentages reflect a commendable achievement, with an average learning percentage of 85% across all batches.

£120 Annual Sponsorship
per student

Emergency Relief

Turkey

Distributed:

- 1000 hot meals and bread to displaced families
- Cash grants of 1000TL to 60 families for essentials
- A drone to identify people trapped in buildings
- Food packs and hygiene packs to 200 families

Lebanon

Distributed:

- 400 family food packs
- £10,000 Zakat

Jenin, Palestine

Distributed:

- Hot meals to 500 people
- 200 family food packs
- 139,920 bottles of water to families, 4 mosques and an orphanage
- 100 bags of baby milk
- 200 packets of nappies
- Treats for 3760 children



Morocco

Distributed:

- 950 Food Packs
- Water for 300 families



Gyan, Afghanistan

Distributed:

- 300 Food Packs
- 10,000 bread loaves
- Water for 5000 families
- 4000 kids packs



Flood Relief



Uganda

Distributed 200 Food Packs and medicines.

Bangladesh

Distributed 1,350 Food Packs, benefiting 5,400 people.

Seasonal Campaigns

Ramadan

- Provided daily Iftar and Sahoor Packs at 3 Soup Kitchens in partnership with Tooting Community Kitchen, totaling 9,600 Iftar meals and 4,800 Sahoor meals.
- Distributed Eid Gifts/Zakat to Soup Kitchen and Foodbank Beneficiaries.
- Ramadan Food Packs Distributed in:
 - Pakistan
 - Afghanistan
 - Syria
 - Lebanon
 - Uganda
 - Somalia
 - Nigeria
- We provide iftar meals in:
 - Uganda**
 - Provided iftar meals to 200 orphans every day, totaling 6,000 meals.
 - Yemen**
 - Distributed 100 Food Packs.
 - Pakistan**
 - Distributed 500 Iftar meals to orphans throughout Ramadan totaling 15,000.
 - Gaza**
 - Provided iftar meals to 100 families every day (average family size - 5), totalling 15,000 meals every day.

Dhul Hijjah:

- Distributed 265 kilos of Qurbani meat in London
- Qurbanis in Uganda, Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Gaza, Malawi and Ethiopia.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS





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