

A group of six children of African descent are standing in a row against the wall of a traditional building with a thick, thatched roof made of dried grass or straw. The building's walls are made of light-colored mud or clay. From left to right: a young boy in a striped shirt and orange shorts; a girl in a pink and purple dress with her hands clasped near her mouth; a boy in a white polo shirt and blue shorts with his arms crossed; a girl in a pink dress and pink leggings; a girl in a blue jumpsuit with her arms crossed; and a girl on the far right wearing a yellow headscarf and a blue dress over a white long-sleeved shirt. The ground is dry and dusty.

REMEMBERING THE FORGOTTEN

ETHAR RELIEF'S EFFORTS, SUPPORTED BY YOU, TO SERVE EAST AFRICAN REFUGEES

Support for Ethar from around the world

UNITED KINGDOM

Charitable & Community Organisations:

- Islamic Relief
- Islamic Help
- Ummah Welfare Trust
- Human Appeal
- UKIM
- Global Aid
- Muslim Aid
- Charity Right
- Mercy Mission
- Kafel Aid
- The Muath Trust
- Muslims In Need
- Al-Khair Foundation
- International Waqf and Relief Foundation (IWARF)
- Human Aid & Advocacy
- Southern Women's Aid Network (SWAN)
- Albirr Foundation
- We Help Foundation
- Idris Foundation
- Taskforce GLM

Masjids & Community Spaces:

- Amanah Mosque, Birmingham
- Masjid At-Taqwa, Leicester
- Nagashi Mosque & Centre, London
- Masjid and Madrasah Al-Tawhid, Leyton
- Al Manaar: The Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre, London
- Finsbury Park Mosque, London
- Green Lane Masjid , Birmingham
- Nadi Park Royal, London

Eritrean Groups:

- Eritrean Muslim Youth UK (EMYUK)
- Eritrean Muslim Community Association (EMCA)

EUROPE

GERMANY

- UMUT Internationale Humanitäre Hilfe Nürnberg
- WHIPSO Gemeinnützige UG

SWEDEN

- Pen & Paper
- Ethar Sweden

THE NETHERLANDS

- Amana
- Adulis

NORTH AMERICA

USA

- ARAHA
- RefuCare

CANADA

- Canadian Eritrean Youth Development (CEYD)

AFRICA

SUDAN

- WeDCO

DJIBOUTI

- Sanabel Al Khair

Ethiopia:

- Darul Hijratain Development Foundation

MIDDLE EAST

QATAR

- Qatar Foundation

YEMEN

- Ard Al-Ssedq Association Charitable

ASIA

MALAYSIA

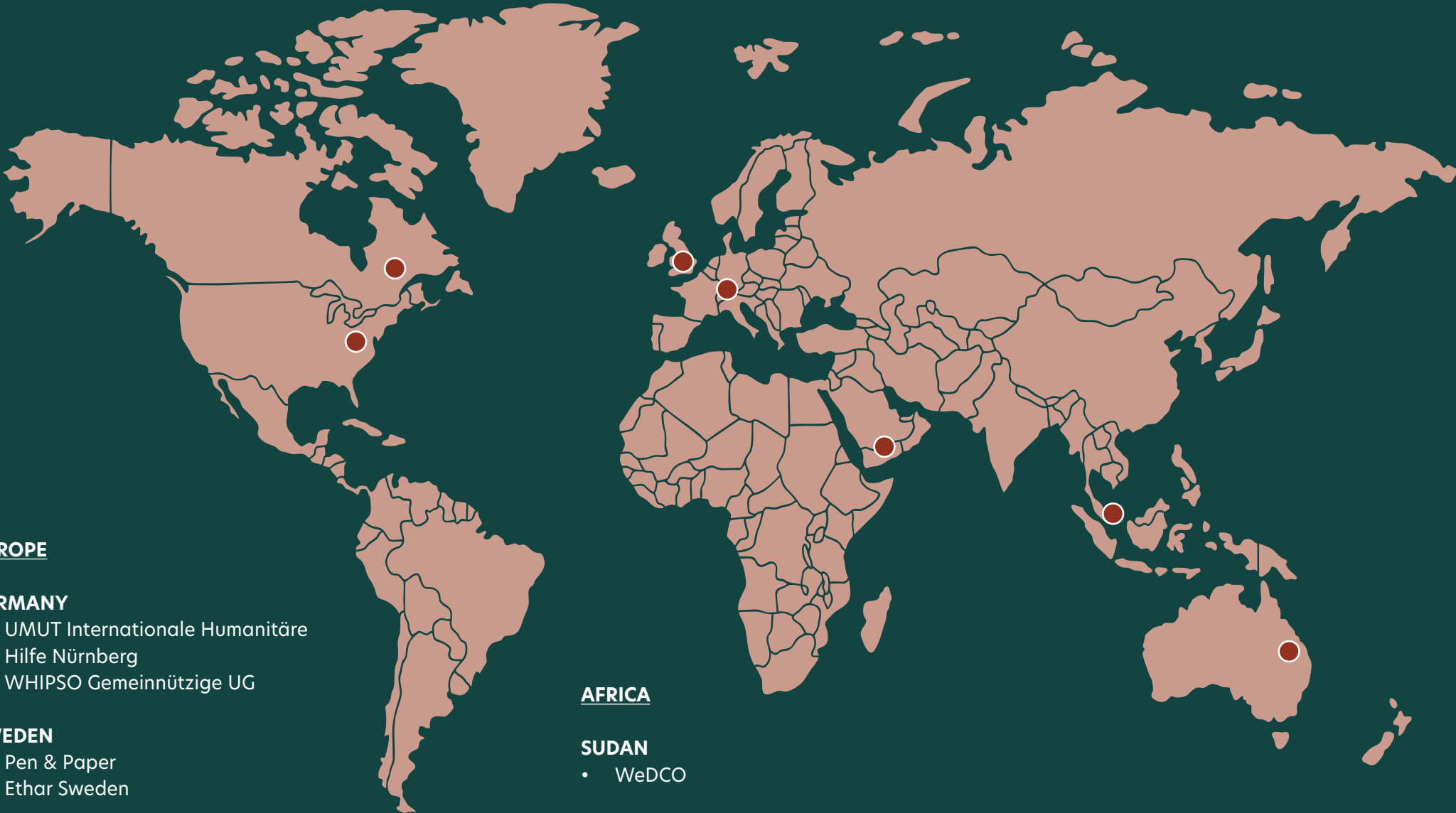
- Charity Right Malaysia

SINGAPORE

- Global Ehsan Relief Singapore (GERSG)

AUSTRALIA

- Ethar Australia



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Acknowledgements

Support throughout the years

Throughout the years since Ethar was established, we continued to enjoy cherished and valuable support across our activities and projects, from many wonderful partners and collaborating organisations.

We thank all partner and supporter organisations for their ever-consistent cooperation, partnership and positive encouragement, which remains sincere and unwavering in the face of unprecedented challenges.

In addition, we have received overwhelming help, kindness and goodwill from countless individuals, community organisations, local centres, places of worship, and small charitable enterprises.

Despite the difficulties faced over the years - from renewed wars and conflicts, disease outbreaks, natural disasters and logistical challenges - we still consistently enjoyed immensely productive and positive communication with so many local people and organisations, for which we are hugely grateful.

Volunteers and small groups of people have worked tirelessly throughout our establishment, organising events and innovating ways to make local campaigns a reality. These individuals and groups are the strength of Ethar, and we are grateful for their selfless support and backing.

Who we are

“Ethar was established specifically to help refugees, as well as displaced and disadvantaged people. We were set up by former refugees from Eritrea who survived the harshest conditions in the refugee camps of East Sudan. We want to end the suffering that we know exists in these places.”

Ethar Relief is a UK-registered humanitarian organisation dedicated to easing the suffering of refugees in East Africa and surrounding regions, with a focus on the long-neglected Eritrean refugees who fled to Eastern Sudan, Yemen and Djibouti. Since its inception, its work has expanded to include victims of war in the region from a multitude of countries, including Sudan and Ethiopia.

Since its establishment in 2006, Ethar has worked tirelessly to address the critical needs of these communities, including severe hunger, disease, water scarcity, and the impact of conflicts and natural calamities. The UN Refugee Agency has stated that international aid for the vast number of refugees that flee conflict in the region is inadequate, and much more needs to be done to avert the ongoing humanitarian crises in East Africa and Yemen.

Our organisation embodies the ethos of 'Ethar', an Arabic term meaning altruism, love, and affection, which drives us to offer selfless, unconditional support to those in dire need.

Ethar Relief, led by individuals who have themselves experienced the harsh realities of refugee life, leverages decades of dedication and the generous support of our donors and partners to improve lives and foster hope among the forgotten refugees of East Africa.

In addition to providing aid and a comprehensive programme of development projects, Ethar strives to raise awareness of refugees in the region, who are considered to have been forgotten by the international community.

We invite all to join us in this noble humanitarian mission to provide not just aid, but a path to a better future for those who have endured so much.



What does 'Ethar' stand for?

In the early days, many thought that ETHAR was just an acronym, standing for 'Eritrea and The Horn of Africa Relief'. This is indeed a useful way to describe how we started out and what we set out to do.

But the deeper meaning of 'Ethar' is actually derived from a word of Arabic origin, meaning altruism, love and affection – the urge to give to others the very best of what you have, or facilitate for another person something better than what you yourself could achieve.

Ethar, therefore, literally means selfless giving in the spirit of unconditional love, and symbolises everything the entire Ethar Family stands for.

“Ethar = Giving happily, even when you're in need”

A Message from our Leadership

**Dear supporters, partners, and wellwishers:
beloved members of the Ethar Family,**

As we reflect on years of remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for the Ethar Family. Your unwavering support has enabled us to make significant strides in our mission to provide humanitarian relief to the forgotten refugees of East Africa and Yemen. Together, we have brought hope and tangible improvements to the lives of countless individuals who face unimaginable hardships.

The past years have been filled with both challenges and triumphs. We continued to face the global ramifications of economic instability, political unrest, and the ongoing impacts of wars and climate disasters. Yet, through these adversities, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to alleviate suffering and foster sustainable development within refugee communities.

Ethar Relief's efforts have always been deeply rooted in our understanding of the plight of refugees. Many of our team members, including myself, have experienced the anguish of displacement and the struggle for survival. This personal connection fuels our determination to ensure that no one has to endure the suffering we once faced. We are dedicated to doing whatever it takes to support refugees and provide them with

the opportunities for a better future.

Over the past few years, we have expanded our projects and deepened our impact across several key areas:

1. Emergency Aid and Food Security:

We provided vital food provisions and emergency aid to thousands of refugees, ensuring they had access to basic necessities during times of crisis. Our seasonal projects, including Ramadan and Qurbani campaigns, delivered much-needed relief and brought a sense of normalcy and joy to countless families.

2. Healthcare and Sanitation:

Through our health programmes, we reached thousands of patients, offering essential medical care and support. Our efforts in water and sanitation have improved living conditions, reducing the prevalence of water-borne diseases and enhancing overall community health.

3. Education and Empowerment:

Education remains a cornerstone of our mission. We supported over 15,000 students, providing school meals, learning materials, and sponsorship for teachers' salaries. Our Women's Development Programme has empowered women through education and skills training, fostering independence and community leadership.

4. Partnerships and Collaboration:

We have forged strong relationships with various humanitarian organisations, academic institutions and charitable bodies. These partnerships have enabled us to extend our reach and amplify our impact, ensuring that our collective efforts bring about meaningful change.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to transparency, accountability, and excellence in all our operations. Our strategic priorities include enhancing our governance frameworks, embracing technological advancements, and continuously refining our approaches to maximise efficiency and effectiveness.

Our dedicated team is the backbone of Ethar Relief. We are incredibly proud of our staff and volunteers, who work tirelessly to serve refugees with compassion and professionalism. Ethar Relief is committed to supporting and cultivating the development of our team, providing them with the necessary training and resources to excel in their roles. Our staff in the UK are deeply connected to the refugees they serve, forming a united Ethar Family that spans across borders. This sense of unity and shared purpose strengthens our efforts and ensures that we can effectively address the needs of those we support.

The journey ahead is fraught with uncertainties, but we are more determined than ever to rise to the challenge. The spirit of humanitarian action that drives Ethar Relief is stronger than ever, and with your continued support, we will make a lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for standing by us. Together, we are lighting the path to a brighter future for the refugees of East Africa and Yemen.

In Light and Peace,

The Trustees and Management of Ethar

Mission Statement

Our mission is to ease the suffering of refugees and extremely poor communities across East Sudan and the Horn of Africa, who are currently living in some of the most hostile and deprived conditions in the world. We aim to achieve this through provisions of emergency aid and essential humanitarian services.

We are dedicated to helping people in need regardless of their race, gender or religious belief. The people we reach out to include Eritrean refugees fleeing into Sudan, internally displaced communities in Yemen, and people arriving in Djibouti fleeing danger from surrounding countries such as Somalia, Yemen, and within Djibouti itself.

The current priority for these desperately needy people is to get access to absolute basics such as food, water, shelter, medical care, sanitation, and education. Alongside this, we also provide skills training and sustainable income generation projects to restore hope, dignity, and independence.

Our projects are designed to:

- Alleviate the suffering of refugees by providing emergency aid such as food provisions, clean water access, and medical care.
- Combat the long-term effects of poverty by setting up educational institutions and student sponsorships which develop academic, practical and social skills.
- Empower women and young people, designing our programmes to ensure they have greater opportunities and choices through education and employment, enabling them to participate and take a lead in the positive development of their communities.



Our Vision

Simply, our vision is a world in which every person can live a dignified and wholesome life.

Our vision to develop and improve collectively as an organisation is reflected in the outcomes and impacts of our projects, and makes us respond more dynamically to changes and challenges in the global landscape.

In addition to emergency aid, we aim to increasingly focus on bringing long-term, ongoing stability to refugee communities. We are maturing year by year as an organisation - and although aid will always be our first response, we are also well established to engage in development projects that will improve the overall conditions for refugees and deprived people living in the Horn of Africa. These include a variety of education, training, women development and sponsorship programmes designed to transition a whole generation of refugees and marginalised people into mainstream life, away from the restrictions and dangers of refugee camps.

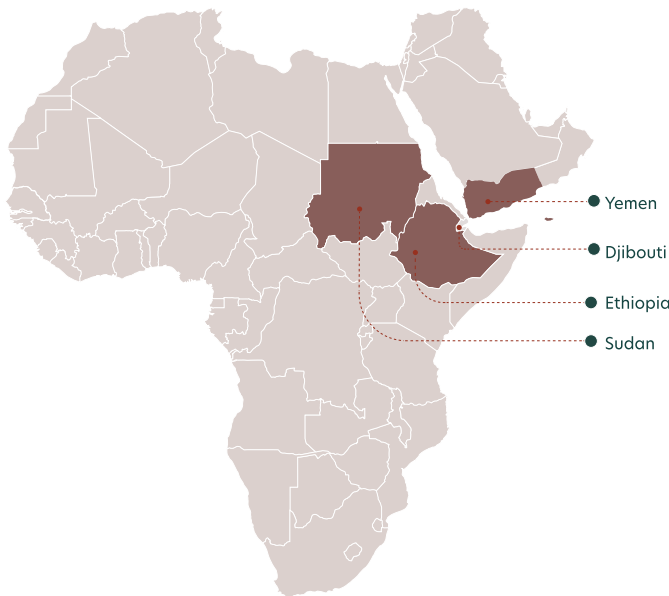
The upcoming years are crucial for us to grow and flourish in our humanitarian journey, in order to meet the growing needs of refugees in the Horn of Africa. Through the implementation of our strategies grounded in productive management practices, operational excellence based on clear principles, achievement of concrete results, accountability and transparency, we will explore and pursue innovative and effective ways to promote and realise the rights of refugees, and brighten the futures of the disadvantaged and neglected refugees in the Horn of Africa and further afield.

Where we help people

Ethar Relief is a well established humanitarian agency operating in the Horn of Africa, providing aid in the East African and Yemeni refugee crises. Ethar provides aid to all those in need, regardless of ethnicity, gender or religious belief.

Our experience leads us to acknowledge the great challenges ahead of us. Together with our partners and supporters, we can achieve our mission: to alleviate suffering and bring the plight of the forgotten refugees to the world's attention.

For us it's personal: many members of our team, including our CEO, were refugees and it is our dream to ensure the current refugees are helped and supported, and are never forgotten.



Sudan

- Shagrab Refugee Camp
- UmGargoor Refugee Camp
- Kassala
- South Toker
- Portsudan
- Khartoum
- AlGirba
- Wadi Sharifai

Djibouti

- Djibouti Town
- Erta
- Abakh

Yemen

- Alkhokha Refugee Camp
- Kharaz Refugee Camp
- Hudaia
- Sanaa
- Adan

Worldwide

Ethar advocates for refugees from East Africa wherever they may be, and is always willing and eager to join efforts to promote their recognition and support wherever that action is taking place.

From Saviours to Refugees: Who are the people of East Africa?

“Ethar was established specifically to help refugees, as well as displaced and disadvantaged people. We were set up by former refugees from Eritrea who survived the harshest conditions in the refugee camps of East Sudan. We want to end the suffering that we know exists in these places.”

From Saviours to Refugees: Who are the people of East Africa?

“Remembering the history of the forgotten refugees, and celebrating the incredible legacy of the people of Abyssinia.”

Almost 1,500 years ago, a small group of people found themselves persecuted for their beliefs and driven out of their homes. When the threat to their lives became too great, they fled to a safe haven over the sea, where they were welcomed and granted asylum and protection from harm.

A tiny community in trouble

The persecuted people were in fact early Muslims, who first formed a community in 7th century Arabia. There were only a handful of them, but their beliefs in equality and justice among all people were seen as a threat to the traditional tribal powers around them. Despite their calls to peace, anyone who declared themselves to be a Muslim suffered terrible abuses at the hands of tribal chiefs, slave-owners, and other powerful men. Among those who chose to migrate were Ruqaiyyah, the daughter of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), Jafar, the Prophet’s cousin, and several other very close companions from the early Muslim community.

The welcome of kind strangers

The place they fled was the ancient city of Makkah, in what is now modern-day Saudi Arabia. It was a dangerous and frightening escape, and they were constantly hiding from people who were chasing them down and trying to capture them. After a perilous journey across Arabia, they boarded a ship (either at a port that is now in modern Saudi Arabia or modern-day Yemen), to make the crossing to Africa. They arrived in the Kingdom of Abyssinia, a vast and prosperous empire ruled by a kind and just king.

Abyssinia, as it was known then, incorporated various parts of East Africa, including areas in modern-day Ethiopia, Eritrea and Sudan. The people of Abyssinia were known to be extremely prosperous, advanced and welcoming. Their kingdom spanned a vast area, and their protection was extremely valuable to the persecuted communities.

The King Negus (Najashi) of Abyssinia not only pledged to protect the Arabian refugees, but listened keenly to their accounts and responded with great kindness. His words of reassurance were put into action when he resisted all attempts to repatriate them; instead, he declared that they could live in Abyssinia for as long as they wished, and they would never be sent back if they didn’t want to go.

Within a short time, news of the king’s kindness spread. Another, bigger group of migrants made the journey from Makkah and were welcomed to Abyssinia in the same way.

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Where is Abyssinia now?

The world has changed a huge amount since these historical events unfolded. The kingdom of Abyssinia no longer exists, and the empire it governed has long been fragmented and changed forever. Even the migrants’ crossing point, which according to some reports falls into modern-day Yemen, is now affected by war.

Some things, however, do remain: the incredible legacy of kindness to the stranger which is remembered to this day, and of course the descendants of those great people who still live in those lands.

Sadly, the current plight of the descendants of those early saviours couldn’t be further from their previous prosperity. In the present day, their lives have been affected by numerous difficulties such as conflict, famine, drought, natural disasters, and severe poverty. Many of the descendants of the great Abyssinian civilisation have been living for generations as refugees themselves, in East Sudan, Yemen, Djibouti, Eritrea and Ethiopia without hope of respite or aid. The world has not heard about their illustrious history, or their present situation.

History Fact File

Year: Around 613-615 AD

Distance to safety: ~ 800km, possibly 1000km depending on exact route

Number of people:
Approx 15 in the first migration, up to 90 in the second.

Key characters:

- Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), who stayed in Makkah.
- King Ashamah Negus of Aksum, known by the Arabs as Al Najashi.
- Ruqaiyyah, the Prophet’s daughter.
- Jafar, the Prophet’s cousin.
- Uthman, husband of Ruqaiyyah and later a Caliph of Islam.

Other info:

The Abyssinian Empire at the time is also known historically as the Kingdom of Aksum.

The Tribe of Quraish were the main group who were torturing and persecuting the early Muslim community. A few years later, they accepted the faith and adopted it themselves.

Further reading:

Aksum: An African Civilization of Late Antiquity, Stuart Munro-Hay, 1991.

Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources, Martin Lings, 1983.

The Story of Sultan Omar

To understand the story of Ethar, we must first understand the life, history, struggles and motivations of its Founder, Mr Sultan Omar.

Born in Eritrea in 1967 in the midst of the conflict with Ethiopia, Sultan Omar grew up in a time of brutal instability in the country's history. The year of his birth was the first year that refugees began fleeing Eritrea into neighbouring Sudan, terrified by what they witnessed in their own country.

Sultan Omar's early life was punctuated by hardship, loss and mortal danger. He knew only suffering and tribulation: bloodshed, burning of homes, killing of innocent souls, and the wholesale slaughter of people like animals. This is what it meant to be born into a warzone, forgotten by the world.

In his own words:

"When I speak about poverty and hardship I don't speak about something which I have watched on video, described in words or understood in some respect. I have lived it. For a period of time when I had not even reached the age of 13, after my father passed away, I used to try and make a living selling things, taking things from the village and selling them in the city. We were surrounded by devastation. The only option was survival."

As a teenager in the early 1980s, Sultan Omar began the dangerous mission of looking for refuge in different places, knowing that he would not survive the conflict in Eritrea. After hazardous boat crossings and very difficult experiences, he eventually gained a UN refugee passport and access to formal education.

Upon eventual settlement in Europe, Sultan Omar decided to embark upon an incredible mission. He could never - and would never - forget his early years of suffering. He realised that he could not be comfortable and content as long as he knew that

there were thousands like him without comfort and safety. He felt strongly that his liberation from the status of a refugee to a citizen afforded him a huge responsibility towards others in the same position as he had been.

Bringing together like-minded people who had experienced similar hardships, Sultan Omar established Ethar with a simple aim: to make a difference to people's lives and uplift those in need, starting with the refugees who had been completely forgotten by the entire world.

In his own words:

"When I speak about orphans, I don't speak about the stories of orphans that I have watched on videos or heard about. I have experienced and lived what it means to be an orphan. I lost my father at a young age and in reality, I know the true meaning of the word orphan. I know the danger and loss of being a child without safety and protection."

"As you can see, Ethar began in 2006 but in reality its seed was planted even earlier than that."

We, as supporters of Ethar, find that every day of our lives is punctuated by inspiration, surprises and uplifting miracles. The incredible passion for humanity exemplified to us by Sultan Omar is the motivating and driving factor behind this - it's an infectious desire to help, to go above and beyond in providing assistance to those in need, and to never turn away from a request or an emergency. Once we commit to a group of people, we are in their service and will not rest until their dignity and humanity has been faithfully upheld.

The impact of Sultan Omar's mindset and focus is huge. Every moment that passes fills us with astonishment and wonder at the amazing achievements that sincere, dedicated people can make when they work together for the sake of others. We have seen our faith strengthen in conviction, and see a divine mercy in the year-on-year increase in generosity and goodwill shown by our supporters.

In addition to hard work and selfless service, Sultan Omar has instilled a supportive, family environment into Ethar - wherever we are located in the world. The 'Ethar Family' is a concept of respect, support, and mutual values, which provides a constant reminder of our purpose and mission to every member. It is also a source of limitless and unconditional love, celebrating the beautiful phenomenon of people brought together for the sole aim of serving others.

We are in awe of our beloved friends that are located across the world, who have responded to Ethar's message with all their heart. They have believed in the cause and raised the voice of the forgotten refugees in hearts, homes and communities across the globe. Through them, refugee issues are being noticed, and every year a few more people remember the forgotten.



Inclusion and Safety for All in the Ethar Family

“True kindness and respect in all its forms - to all people we encounter, and to ourselves.”

At Ethar Relief we cherish and strongly believe in maintaining a positive, inclusive environment for all. We refer to ourselves as the Ethar Family, to include all of us together - staff, volunteers, partners, supporters, and the people we help every day. We look after each other with love and universal human values. We care about every family member and work hard for the wellbeing of each one.

We are a non-governmental, non-political humanitarian aid organisation, dedicated to helping people in need regardless of their ethnic origin, political affiliation, gender or religious beliefs. Throughout our history, our projects have provided aid and sustainable resources to displaced, poverty-impacted refugees and marginalised communities in Sudan, Yemen, Djibouti, and Ethiopia, (countries within or near the area traditionally referred to as The Horn Of Africa). These countries and locations are diverse and unique in themselves, and are never treated as a homogenous group despite their proximity to each other. Likewise, the communities within each country share culture, customs, and origins, but also diverge greatly in many aspects. Ethar Relief celebrates both the similarities and differences, and extends its support and advocacy towards refugees from these communities within the UK.

Our projects are designed to:

- 1.**
Alleviate the suffering of refugees by providing emergency aid such as food provisions, clean water access, and medical care.
- 2.**
Combat the long-term effects of poverty by establishing educational provision and sponsorships which develop academic, practical and social skills.
- 3.**
Empower vulnerable and marginalised groups, designing our programmes to ensure they have greater opportunities and choices through education and employment, enabling them to participate and take the lead in the positive development of their communities.
- 4.**
Prioritise the safety, security and wellbeing of every stakeholder of the organisation, whether they are a staff member working on our behalf or a person who we are serving through our projects.

Ethar Relief is officially registered in the United Kingdom as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with UK Companies House. We adhere to all relevant guidelines and legislation governing our activities and implement our policies of inclusion and safeguarding accordingly.

Thanks to our deep local knowledge of the regions in which we operate, we are able to bring our model of governance into our projects on the ground, and prioritise inclusion, safeguarding, and wellbeing as well as delivery of aid to those who need it most.

Over the years, we have established a strong reputation globally for our presence, knowledge, and expertise in the East Africa region. Therefore, in addition to our independent projects we also act as an adviser and delivery partner for other charitable and humanitarian organisations.

Ethar Relief prides itself on its openness, transparency, and inclusivity. We are not affiliated to any political, ethnic, or religious groups. Our work is carried out in the areas of most need regardless of politics or demographics. Our staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries reflect the diversity of the regions in which we operate, and beyond. We take great care to ensure the safeguarding and wellbeing of all stakeholders, both within our organisation and externally. Ethar Relief has a zero tolerance approach towards discrimination and abuse of any kind, and is dedicated to the healthy environment fostered within and by our organisation.

All official policies, practices and guidelines, statutory and voluntary, adopted by Ethar Relief and its partner organisations, including any persons working on behalf of the charity, reflect these absolute commitments to inclusivity and safeguarding. These principles are foremost and non-negotiable, and apply to all staff, stakeholders, and people we serve.




What We Are Working Towards: UN SDGs

Every project and programme must be rooted in a broader focus and vision. In supporting refugees, we aim to contribute to a better world as a whole. **Ethar's projects support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals agreed upon by governments around the world, to uplift marginalised people and commit to sustainable targets in their interest.** Our projects impact directly upon the achievement of the following seven goals, and will also have a positive effect on others.

1

NO POVERTY



Goal 1: No Poverty

Refugees across East Africa, particularly within Sudan, are suffering from extreme poverty, with incomes and earning potential well below all conventional measurements and metrics used to calculate this. Sponsorship represents an essential uplift in our anti-poverty goals for refugee orphans and their families.

2

ZERO HUNGER



Goal 2: Zero Hunger

Food provision is an essential aspect of our programmes. Many refugees, especially children, suffer from malnutrition - with signs of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in the camps, extremely dangerous conditions that go way beyond hunger and missing meals.

3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Goal 3: Good Health & Well-Being

Lack of medical care is another reason, like malnutrition above, why many refugees face a life of ill health or disability. Furthermore, non-medical interventions such as access to education and reduced stress from being supported financially, contribute hugely to overall wellbeing.

4

QUALITY EDUCATION



Goal 4: Quality Education

Internationally, society as a whole has acknowledged that the only way to help refugees escape poverty and exploitation is for the global community to come together and help disadvantaged people access education.

5

GENDER EQUALITY




Goal 5: Gender Equality

Advocacy is an important component in our programmes, as many refugees from vulnerable backgrounds do not have a voice to express their difficulties. In particular, girls and women with disabilities can face intersectional challenges which exacerbate their marginalisation. Supporting these refugees without discrimination and enabling them to achieve their potential not only helps them individually, but challenges social norms and serves to reduce inequality overall.

6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION




Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Access to clean water is a human right and an important component of Ethar's provision to refugees. Travelling to clean water sites is a specific opportunity cost which keeps children from attending school and realising their potential. Lack of water leads to disease and premature death. When we conduct needs assessments, this is factored in and mobile water provision is provided to regions to alleviate this difficulty.

10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Goal 6: Reduced Inequality

As mentioned above, the aim of Ethar's programmes are not just financial and resource provision, but to uphold dignity and challenge existing stigmas, biases and norms. Showing communities worldwide the importance of supporting refugees of all backgrounds and vulnerable children with a range of needs has a great bearing on attitudes and future acceptance within society.





Our Work, and the People We Help

Over the next few pages you will find examples of our work, which is carried out across East Africa and Yemen. The work we do is varied and responds to all kinds of needs which refugee communities have, from basic necessities of water and food to the need for a shared community space to pray and gather together.

Children are the biggest difference-makers; we always notice that if a project positively supports the local children, its impact is the greatest and it causes the most joy and overall benefit. Children really do radiate their happiness widely. If a community's children are safe and well, the community is always better off for it, and can look forward to a bright future.

A Word About Sudan

Ethar was established to support refugees from East Africa seeking shelter and safety. Initially, when we were a very small charity, we supported people fleeing the conflict in Eritrea. As we grew, we expanded our projects to include many others feeling conflicts in the region known as the Horn of Africa - whether those conflicts were in Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen, Uganda, or Eritrea.

One thing was a constant, throughout this time: refugees fleeing these places would often try to get to East Sudan, and enter the relative safety of camps and surrounding villages there. At Ethar, we have noted and witnessed the generosity and will of the Sudanese people over many years, to host refugees coming from the surrounding countries, and share whatever little resources they have with people who are in fear and difficulty.

Now, a new era is upon us. Conflict has once again come to Sudan itself, and the people who helped others find themselves in dire need. Millions are displaced internally within their own country, refugees with nowhere to go. Sudan, in a complex region, was relatively safe. Now, nothing is guaranteed for anyone - whether a refugee from another country or an internally displaced person from Sudan itself.

This situation has had a serious effect on the scale and demand of what we do at Ethar. With all the logistical and practical challenges, we need to find ways to make sure we can help all the people who need it. We know the region and its people so well, but we need more support than ever to keep everyone safe and well. Daily, we are seeing more and more life and death situations, and serious emergencies are widespread and commonplace.

As you read about the work we've done and are doing on the next few pages, keep in mind how much we need to step up in future. And keep remembering the forgotten refugees.

Emergency Relief

“Comprehensive Support for Vulnerable Communities”

At Ethar Relief, one of our primary focuses is to provide rapid response and prompt, effective emergency disaster relief to refugees and displaced individuals across East Africa, particularly in Sudan, Yemen, Djibouti, and Ethiopia.

Our emergency response efforts are designed to address immediate needs and lay the foundation for long-term recovery and resilience.

Emergency Aid and Rapid Response

Ethar Relief has a well-established protocol for emergency responses to crises such as natural disasters, armed conflicts, and sudden displacement. We collaborate closely with local authorities, international humanitarian organisations, and refugee community groups to ensure that aid is delivered swiftly and effectively to those who need it most.



Key Components of Our Emergency Aid

Food Security & Nutrition

- Provision of essential food packs to families in crisis, designed to feed an average family for a month. These packs include staples such as lentils, grains, sugar, oil, juice concentrate and dates, ensuring balanced nutrition to combat malnutrition and hunger.
- Special focus on vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly, who are at greater risk of severe malnutrition.

Clean Water & Sanitation

- Installation and maintenance of clean water wells and mobile water distribution services to ensure access to safe drinking water, crucial in preventing water-borne diseases.
- Deployment of emergency sanitation measures, including disinfectant spraying and provision of hygiene kits, to prevent disease outbreaks in densely populated camps .

Medical Care & Health Services

- Establishment of emergency medical clinics and mobile health units to provide immediate medical attention and ongoing healthcare services. This includes vaccinations, distribution of medicines, and specialised care for conditions like severe acute malnutrition.
- Coordination with local healthcare providers to ensure continuous care and support, particularly in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

Shelter & Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- Provision of temporary shelters and essential non-food items such as blankets, cooking utensils, and clothing to families displaced by emergencies.
- Construction of more permanent structures, including schools and community centres, to support long-term stability and recovery.

Case Studies: Effective Emergency Interventions

Sudan Civil War

In light of the recent internal conflict in Sudan, Ethar Relief has rapidly mobilised to provide critical assistance to those affected by the violence. According to DTM Sudan who publish official tracking statistics, since the outbreak of the conflict, more than 10 million people were displaced internally across more than 8,000 locations in Sudan (and counting). Our interventions include setting up emergency shelters, distributing essential food and non-food items, and deploying mobile medical units to offer urgent healthcare services. By working closely with our team on the ground, local partners and international agencies, we ensure that aid reaches the most vulnerable populations, helping refugees cope with the immediate impacts of the conflict and supporting their path to recovery.

Tigray Crisis Response

Ethar Relief has been at the forefront of responding to the Tigray crisis, where thousands of refugees have fled into East Sudan seeking safety from conflict. Our efforts included the provision of food, clean water, and medical care to stabilise new arrivals and support their transition into more permanent settlements.

Flooding and natural disaster

In response to severe annual flooding in the Kassala region, Ethar Relief provides emergency food aid, medical care, and clean water to thousands of affected individuals. Our interventions have helped mitigate the impact of the floods, preventing the spread of water-borne diseases and ensuring that families had the resources they needed to survive and rebuild.

Yemen Conflict

Our response to the conflict in Yemen includes regular distribution of food packs and clean water to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. Ethar Relief's mobile water distribution services have been particularly vital in areas where access to clean water is severely limited due to the conflict.



Building Resilience and Preparedness

Ethar Relief is committed to not only providing immediate emergency aid but also enhancing the resilience and preparedness of refugee communities to withstand future crises. This includes:

- Community Training: Empowering local communities through training programmes in disaster preparedness and sustainable agricultural practices to reduce dependency and increase self-sufficiency. This is done through our dedicated field offices.
- Infrastructure Development: Investing in long-term infrastructure projects such as schools, medical centres, and water systems that serve both emergency and ongoing community needs.

Ethar's comprehensive approach to emergency disaster relief ensures that we address both the immediate and long-term needs of the most vulnerable populations in East Africa. Our commitment to swift, effective, and compassionate response has made a tangible difference in the lives of countless refugees and displaced individuals. With the continued support of our donors, partners, and volunteers, we will persist in our mission to bring hope and relief to those who need it most.

Restoring Sight: A Legacy of Compassion

“Providing sight-saving cataract operations and other eye treatments for blind and partially-sighted refugees in East Sudan”

Giving the Gift of Sight

In the past few years, Ethar Relief has transformed the lives of hundreds of refugees in East Sudan by providing critical eye care services. Our sight-saving initiatives have allowed countless individuals to regain their independence and dignity, demonstrating the profound impact that targeted medical interventions can have on vulnerable populations.

Who We Helped

Our eye care programmes have reached hundreds of refugees living in camps in Sudan, many of whom have fled ongoing conflicts across East Africa, and within the country itself. According to official stats from DTM, before the most recent civil war, the estimated number of displaced people was 2.83 million (prior to April 2023) rising sharply to 7.26 million after the outbreak of war. These individuals, some residing in camps since as far back as the 1960s, have little to no access to quality healthcare. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we were able to provide life-changing treatments to those who would otherwise remain restricted by preventable conditions.

Addressing the Urgent Need

For refugees in East Sudan, access to eye care is a significant challenge. Without the financial means, transportation, and medical facilities, many suffer from blindness and visual impairments that drastically affect their quality of life. The camps lack the necessary infrastructure to provide proper medical care, and the harsh environment exacerbates the vulnerabilities of those with visual impairments.

Blindness severely impacts daily life in refugee camps, where survival depends on the ability to find food and water. The lack of adapted facilities for blind individuals makes life incredibly difficult.

Moreover, family members often have to forego opportunities to care for blind relatives, and children miss out on education due to visual impairments. According to official statistics from OCHA, nearly 5 million children had been forcibly displaced in Sudan by the end of 2023, meaning that our work on this needs to step up sharply to meet demand and avoid a further health catastrophe.

Our Response: Bringing Clinics to the Camps

Ethar's solution was to bring eye care directly to the refugees. We established mobile eye clinics within the camps to triage, admit, operate, and provide aftercare for various eye conditions. These Eye Care Caravans were staffed by qualified doctors and nurses from the cities, ensuring that refugees received the highest standard of medical care.

Transforming Lives with Eye Care

Over the past year, our eye care programmes have provided the following treatments:

- **Cataract Removal:** Hundreds of individuals regained their sight through cataract surgery.
- **Sight Restoration Operations:** Essential surgeries restored vision to those suffering from severe visual impairments.
- **Eye Tests and Glasses Prescription:** Many received eye tests and glasses, significantly improving their daily lives.
- **Eye Drops and Medicines:** Necessary medications were provided to maintain eye health.
- **Other Sight-Saving Procedures:** Tailored treatments addressed a variety of eye health issues.
- **Ongoing Care for Chronic Conditions:** Continuous support ensured long-term eye health for chronic conditions.



The Impact of Your Support

The success of our eye care initiatives is a testament to the power of compassionate giving. Our donors have made it possible for us to bring essential medical services to those who need them most. The restored sight has allowed individuals to participate more fully in their communities, care for their families, and pursue education and employment opportunities.

The eye care programmes of Ethar Relief exemplify the transformative power of targeted medical interventions. By restoring sight to hundreds of refugees, we have not only improved individual lives but also strengthened entire communities. This work would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our donors and partners.

Feeding Refugees

Ethar Relief’s commitment to alleviating hunger and providing essential nutrition to refugees and displaced individuals across East Africa and Yemen is unwavering. For instance, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), in Sudan Emergency Phase 4 (extreme food shortages, acute malnutrition, and the risk of hunger-related deaths) is widespread and the number of people facing Catastrophe Phase 5 (people who used all of their coping strategies, have almost no food and cannot support their basic needs, risking starvation to the death) is expected to escalate to the peak around various areas in Sudan. Our comprehensive food aid and feeding programmes are designed to address both immediate hunger and long-term food security.

Hunger, and feeling the pain of an empty stomach, is often the start of a desperate cycle for refugees and victims of war. It can lead to malnutrition, disease, weakness, disability, and early death. In some cases the drive to escape hunger leads to the exploitation, trafficking, and enslavement of refugees by criminal gangs.

Food Packs

Ethar Relief provides regular food packs to the most vulnerable families in refugee camps across Sudan and Yemen. This is our all-year round programme, which never stops. These food packs are a lifeline, and are carefully curated to meet the nutritional needs of a family of approximately seven people for a month.

Each pack contains essential items such as:

- Lentils
- Dates
- Soup
- Oil
- Sugar
- Juice concentrate

These ingredients are chosen for their regional availability in bulk and are designed to cover essential basics for survival and nutrition by providing a balance of protein, carbohydrates, fibre, and glucose.

The Family Feeding programme ensures these food packs are delivered directly to the most vulnerable people within the camps, especially families with young babies and infants, providing a reliable source of nourishment and stability.

School Feeding Programmes

Ethar Relief recognises the crucial link between nutrition and education. Our school feeding programmes aim to reduce dropout rates and improve academic performance by providing regular meals to students. During the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, when schools were closed, we stepped up community food pack distributions to include pupils and their families who relied on school meals. This initiative ensured that vulnerable children continued to receive necessary nutrition despite the disruptions. Since then, we haven’t looked back and have been sustaining our school feeding programme with your support.

The School Meals project, funded by individual donors and trusted charitable partners, has significantly impacted attendance and academic achievements across refugee-attended schools in the regions we operate. Regular school meals have improved attendance rates and encouraged students to stay in school, providing them with the opportunity to break free from the cycle of poverty .

Ramadan

Ramadan is a special time for many in the Ethar Family. During this period, Ethar Relief steps up its food distribution efforts to meet the increased needs of fasting refugees.

Our Ramadan campaigns provide hot iftar meals and food packs to thousands of refugees in camps across Sudan and Yemen. In addition to food packs, we also distribute Zakat and Sadaqah (cash grants and also in-kind items) to orphans, widows, and the most needy individuals.

In Sudan, for example, we regularly distribute over 10,000 food packs, 2500 hot iftar meals to refugees and displaced people sheltering in camps each Ramadan.

The generosity of our donors during Ramadan enables us to reach a broader range of people, extending our support to rural areas and ensuring that families have the resources they need to observe the holy month with dignity.

Qurbani

The Qurbani programme is another cornerstone of Ethar Relief’s food aid initiatives. During Qurbani, we distribute fresh meat to refugees who rarely have the opportunity to enjoy this vital source of nutrition. This programme is particularly impactful in refugee camps where meat consumption is a rare luxury. Our Qurbani distributions reach thousands of orphans, families with children, and elderly individuals across multiple refugee camps and towns in East Africa.

In partnership with donors and organisations, Ethar Relief has been able to deliver door-to-door food packs and Qurbani meat to over 1000 particularly needy families each season. This project not only provides essential nutrition but also preserves the dignity of marginalised families by ensuring they have access to good quality food during the season and also onwards throughout the year.

Additional Feeding Programmes

Ethar Relief also runs other feeding initiatives tailored to the specific needs of the communities we serve. These include:

- **Emergency Food Provision:** Providing immediate food aid during crises such as floods, conflicts, and natural disasters.
- **Seasonal Projects:** Distributing additional food supplies during peak demand periods to ensure no refugee family goes hungry during critical times.
- **Infant Nutrition:** Distributing infant formula milk and nutritionally fortified high-energy foods to combat malnutrition among vulnerable groups such as newborns and pregnant women.

Ethar Relief’s food aid and feeding programmes are integral to our mission of alleviating hunger and improving the lives of refugees and displaced individuals. Through our comprehensive initiatives, we ensure that vulnerable communities receive the nutrition they need to survive and thrive. Our continued efforts, supported by our generous donors and partners, enable us to provide hope and sustenance to those who need it most.



The Ethar Family:

Zainab

“My husband is now disabled due to injury. My son is also disabled, suffering from fits and tremors, and needs treatment.”

“My daughter suffers from a psychological disorder, she moves from our living space in the night, and I worry for her safety.”

“As a mother, it was too much to provide enough food for the family, and care for them by myself.”

“Ethar is helping us with food packs, and this has removed a huge burden from us, especially since my husband can no longer work.”

Zainab
Mother of 9 Children
Kilo 26 Refugee Camp, East Sudan

Clean Water for Communities

“Ensuring Access to Clean Water and Sanitation”

Access to clean water is a fundamental human right and an essential component of Ethar Relief’s humanitarian efforts in East Africa and Yemen. Our comprehensive water provision initiatives aim to alleviate the hardships faced by refugees and displaced people by ensuring reliable access to safe and potable water.

Lack of water is a primary cause of refugees dying: No one can physically go more than a couple of days without drinkable water. Additionally, dirty water is such a big cause of disease that many water sources are simply too dangerous for refugees to use, whether it’s for drinking or cleaning themselves.

“Water is both an emergency need and a sustained, ongoing requirement.”

Water Wells and Boreholes

Ethar Relief has invested significantly in the construction and maintenance of water wells and boreholes across various regions. These wells provide a sustainable and long-term solution to water scarcity, particularly in remote and rural areas where access to clean water is a daily struggle.

Djibouti

Ethar Relief has constructed a number of hand-dug wells, serving approximately 2000 people. These smaller wells are vital for remote areas where residents would otherwise have to walk miles to obtain water. Wells are dug by hand because the region is inaccessible to large machinery, and also because the geology of the area requires smaller wells to be carefully dug by hand.

Sudan

- **Sabdarat Water Station:** A large well serving 13,000 people in the region.

- **Amara Village Well:** A well providing water for 5,000 people and their crucial livestock of 7,500 cattle.

These wells not only supply drinking water but also support agricultural activities and livestock, which are essential for the livelihoods of many refugee communities, to keep them out of poverty.

Mobile Water Distribution

In regions where constructing wells is not feasible or during periods of emergency, Ethar Relief implements mobile water distribution services. This ensures that even the most inaccessible communities have access to clean water.

Yemen and East Sudan

Ethar Relief provides mobile water distribution using designated tanks that are topped up and treated to ensure water is safe for consumption. This service is crucial during seasonal floods or other events that cut off access to existing water sources.

Sanitation and Hygiene

Sanitation is an integral part of our water provision efforts, aimed at preventing water-borne diseases and promoting overall health and well-being within refugee camps.

Disease response

During outbreaks of disease such as during the Covid-19 pandemic, and during outbreaks of other water borne diseases such as cholera, Ethar Relief implements a sanitation programme that includes the provision of handwash stations and mobile clean water deliveries to tanks across refugee camps, to mitigate the spread of disease. This initiative highlights the importance of clean water and good hygiene in preventing disease outbreaks.

Educational Outreach

Ethar Relief conducts regular health and sanitation education outreach programmes to raise awareness about the importance of hygiene and effective usage of clean water. These programmes are designed to prevent the spread of diseases and improve overall community health.

Sustainable Water Projects

Ethar is committed to the sustainability of its water projects, ensuring that they provide long-term benefits to the communities they serve.

Kassala, East Sudan

We regularly repair our network of wells in rural Kassala aimed at improving health outcomes, sanitation, and mitigating waterborne diseases.

Um Safari Water Station, Sudan

A major project in Um Safari village involving the construction of a water station with a capacity of 3,000 gallons per hour. This station, built with a 53m depth borehole, includes five distribution taps and separate drinking bowls for animals. It

provides clean drinking water for 7,000 residents, ensuring access for at least 25 years.

Addressing Water Scarcity and Promoting Development

Access to clean water transforms communities by enabling agricultural activities, reducing the burden on women and children to collect water, and allowing them to invest time in education and livelihoods.

Educational Impact

Providing clean water close to schools ensures that children do not have to skip classes to fetch water, thereby improving school attendance and educational outcomes.

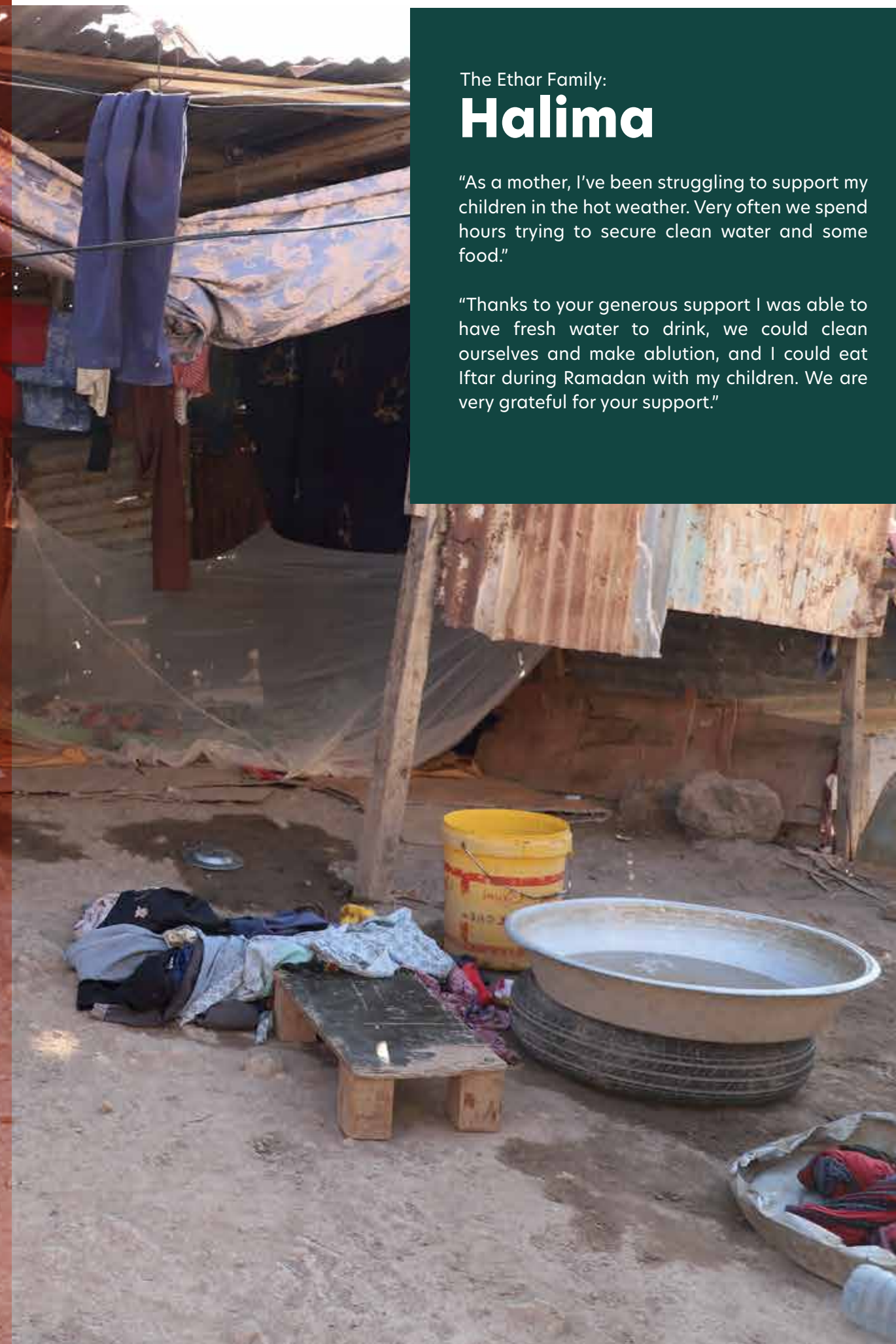
Community Health

Clean water is crucial for preventing diseases and promoting overall health. Ethar Relief’s water projects include the provision of water purification tablets, disinfectant spraying to prevent disease outbreaks, and regular maintenance of existing wells to ensure their longevity.

Ethar Relief’s water provision initiatives are a testament to our commitment to improving the lives of refugees and displaced individuals. By ensuring access to clean water and promoting sanitation, we address immediate needs and lay the groundwork for long-term community development and resilience. Our efforts, supported by our dedicated donors and partners, continue to bring hope and relief to those who need it most.



Halima
Mother of 5 Children
Refugee in Djibouti



The Ethar Family:
Halima

"As a mother, I've been struggling to support my children in the hot weather. Very often we spend hours trying to secure clean water and some food."

"Thanks to your generous support I was able to have fresh water to drink, we could clean ourselves and make ablution, and I could eat Iftar during Ramadan with my children. We are very grateful for your support."

Education for Every Person

“Education Programmes: Providing Hope and Opportunity”

Ethar Relief is deeply committed to transforming the lives of refugee children and their communities through comprehensive educational initiatives. Our educational programmes span primary, secondary, and traditional schooling, aiming to provide consistent access to quality education and foster long-term development.

“Ethar really believes that the best way to lift a person out of the cycle of poverty and marginalisation is to equip them with education.”

Primary Schools

Ethar Relief supports numerous primary schools largely attended by refugee children in East Sudan, ensuring that they have a solid foundation in literacy and numeracy skills. These schools provide a nurturing environment that promotes both academic and personal growth.

Support for Core Schools

Ethar Relief supports core schools located in refugee camps and surrounding areas, including kindergarten, primary schools, and secondary schools. This support includes covering operational costs, staff salaries, provision of books and materials, and resources for students who total above 1000.

Impact on Attendance and Performance

Our support has led to significant improvements in school attendance and academic performance. In some cases, in tandem with feeding programmes and orphan sponsorship initiatives, attendance rates have improved up to 98%, with many students returning to school after previously dropping out due to lack of support and resources. This shows that when you remove the barriers to education, refugee children are ready and eager to grasp the educational opportunities they are presented with.

Across Sudan and East Africa, millions of children can't go to school. They're in 'extreme educational poverty.'

- Unicef



Who is Tahir?

Tahir Salih Idrees was born in the Umm Gharghour refugee camp in East Sudan. If that was not already a difficult start to life, he was born with severe physical disabilities, including loss of movement in both legs. Disability amongst children born within the refugee camp environment is very high, due to the incredibly poor healthcare facilities and nutritional support available to pregnant mothers and new-born children. Still, given the high infant mortality rate, most refugee parents are grateful that their children survive at all. Tahir's disabilities could possibly have been less severe if there had been some early medical intervention in his formative years, but this was impossible within a refugee camp where basic healthcare access is so low. As a result of his post-birth complications, and in addition to neither of his legs functioning, one of his legs had to be amputated below the knee.

The Dangers

With a physically impairing disability, and already disadvantaged by the incredibly hostile refugee camp environment, Tahir was in the most vulnerable situation for a child. The dangers to all inhabitants of the refugee camps are well known, but children, especially disabled children, are in the most danger and difficulty. They are vulnerable to diseases that ravage camps bring, causing them to die suddenly whilst their parents can only look on, unable to access even the simplest kinds of medicine or assistance. They are vulnerable to natural disasters, and cannot make long journeys to move out of danger zones when floods and droughts occur. Among the refugee population, they are the most severely affected by famine and food shortages, as they cannot easily access food aid caravans or passing aid convoys. Most worryingly, children like Tahir are vulnerable to exploitation, safety, and security risks – criminals can use their disabilities to exploit them and their families in a number of ways, thus becoming hostages to their disability or condition.

A Promising Young Boy

We met Tahir when he was six years old. Immediately, we were struck by his bright nature, cheerful positivity, and his optimistic outlook. To him, his disability was not a barrier to living his life. Tahir's family were occupying a rough shack that contained absolutely nothing – not even a bed to sleep on. The entire family were sitting, living, and sleeping on the hard ground. The facilities that might be needed to support a family with a disabled child were a distant dream and almost unimaginable. Tahir's parents were not even aware of what kind of support he might need because he had never been assessed or diagnosed, meaning that he had not accessed any sophisticated healthcare facility. In the context of the refugee camp and the scarcity of resources, minor ailments and disabilities can become very greatly exacerbated, leading to extreme impairment of function and even loss of life. These risks were known to Tahir's family, but they were powerless to act upon this knowledge. Despite this, Tahir himself remained resolute and positive, and his family were also determined to give him the best possible opportunities that they could provide.



A Mother's Struggle

In the face of the most severe challenges, Tahir's mother decided to take matters into her own hands and make an effort to provide him with a normal, healthy life experience. Every day, for instance, she got him ready in the morning and they made the very long journey in the heat to attend a nursery and primary school opened by Ethar Relief. Due to the lack of transport facilities, her only option was to carry him there and back in her arms. Tahir was the first disabled child from Umm Gharghour refugee camp to be able to access education in this way, thanks to the incredible efforts of his mother to help him get there and assist him in his activities. Her sacrifice for her child has been huge: she waits for him to complete his school day so that they could then make the long journey back home every day, in all conditions.

Things Can Get Better

Ethar Relief was able to help Tahir and other children like him to improve their home life and facilities, in order to remove some of the challenges that normally prevent them from attending school and leading a normal life. For example, Tahir now has a proper bed with a mattress at home, and a wheelchair to travel to school in. His journey time to school has been vastly reduced, and Ethar Relief has also supported his school to provide more adapted facilities and learning opportunities for children like Tahir.

In addition to this, Ethar Relief supports Tahir's amazing mother to provide the family with nutritious meals, so that he is not further exposed to disease and injury. She is now a local advocate for disabled children's schooling, and invites other mothers to access support and send their children to school. Ethar Relief also arranged for Tahir's disability to be properly assessed and diagnosed in hospital, so that going forward he can get any treatment he needs and ensure he does not lose any further physical functions.

I am Tahir

Due to Tahir's enthusiasm for school and the example he and his family set, other disabled children also started attending school and finding ways to overcome their challenges. With the help of his teacher, he composed a poem about himself called Anā Tāhir (I am Tahir).

Its opening lines read:

***"I am Tahir, and I'm not disabled - I'm bright!
I am a talented, promising child..."***

In response, Tahir's teacher also wrote a poem to him, encouraging him to keep attending school despite his difficulties, and to never give up on his goals. Both these poems were performed at the presentation day held by Tahir's school, attended by Ethar Relief's Director of Programmes.

Children like Tahir may have had a challenging start, but we can try to give them a better future.

Awareness, Access, and Tolerance

There is a beautiful trust built up between Ethar Relief and the refugee community. They know that if a vulnerable, disabled child attends an Ethar school, that child will be educated and looked after properly. Ethar Relief trains all its staff and teachers to foster inclusion and tolerance within the classroom environment so that we not only invest in their academic education, but also in the long-term cohesion of the next generation as a community growing up together.

Tahir's teacher informed us that even when he had to sit out of certain types of games in the school yard, he smiled, laughed, clapped, and enjoyed seeing the children play. Accordingly, his many friends tried to find ways that he could join in, or tried to invent a role for him to play in the games. It is crucial to all children that they get the opportunity to play and interact with their peers.

Disabled children can find life in the refugee camp very isolating and lonely. It is not uncommon for disabled children to grow up with other severe difficulties, including mental health issues or behavioural difficulties, due to the lack of communication and regular interaction they develop over the years.

Tahir's Future

You cannot help but be inspired by Tahir's story. Every year, Ethar Relief opens more nurseries, schools, and training centres for children and young people in refugee camps. These are coupled with awareness campaigns and home visits to refugees to tell them about the benefits of schooling and education, for all children inclusively. The uptake of such opportunities by the refugees is phenomenal, and there is a measurable positive effect that we observe when we revisit the communities after a while.

Sometimes, the solution to keep children in school is as simple as providing lunch for them on the premises so that they do not have to go foraging for food all day. There is a lot more work to do and there are thousands of children who would benefit from such facilities, so we will keep working hard with the help of our generous supporters.



Secondary Schools

Secondary education is crucial for providing advanced learning opportunities and preparing students for higher education and employment. Ethar's initiatives ensure that students, especially marginalised groups such as girls and orphans, have access to secondary education.

Al-Mustaqbal Schools, Sudan

Ethar runs flagship schools for boys and girls, providing high-quality education and full boarding facilities where needed. These schools cater to orphans and children from extremely poor, displaced and refugee backgrounds, ensuring they receive the necessary support to excel in their studies.

University Student Accommodation

To support students in higher education, Ethar sponsors boarding houses near universities, covering rent, meals, and running costs. This initiative helps students from refugee backgrounds access higher education opportunities without the financial burden of accommodation costs.

Many promising refugee students with high academic results would never be able to pursue the courses that their achievements merit, without this additional support. University education is the dream for many refugee children, and represents not only huge personal achievement against all odds, but the prospect of lifelong employment and thereby the ability to lift their family out of poverty.



The Ethar Family:

Jawhara

This is Jawhara, who started life in a refugee camp. Ethar asked its supporters to sponsor her, and they answered the call.

With that support, she accessed schooling run by Ethar, and then excelled in her studies. Jawhara set her mind on studying medicine to become a doctor.

Right now, she's in medical school on a scholarship won through her brilliant academic results. She has only one intention: to qualify as a doctor, return to the camp and help as many people as possible.



Traditional Education

Traditional education centres, also known as Quran learning schools, play an important role in the refugee community. These centres provide a mix of religious and academic education, ensuring children gain crucial skills and maintain their cultural heritage.

Quran Learning Centres

Ethar Relief supports Quran learning centres, which are highly valued for completing Quran memorisation and study. Graduates from these centres often transition to formal education institutions. Ethar funds staff salaries and provides resources to ensure the centres operate smoothly.



The Ethar Family:

Abaker

A student named Abaker from a traditional learning centre in Kassala State shared his experience of getting into a school:

“My parents sent me here because this is a safer area compared to the war we were in. My father is a poor man and we are seven brothers. I was in need of daily food and had no access to education.”

“Now, thanks to Ethar there are no difficulties. Nothing is missing for me.”

“I come to school daily and find my meals ready in the morning. I eat dates, then breakfast, lunch and dinner - complete food with good nutrition. Since then, I've memorised more than half of the Holy Quran.”

Special Education Programmes

Ethar Relief recognises the unique challenges faced by children with disabilities and learning difficulties. Our special education programmes aim to provide tailored support and integration opportunities for these vulnerable children.



Irada Centre for Special Needs

This flagship programme in East Sudan offers specialised care and education for children with disabilities. The centre employs specialist qualified teachers and provides daily transport, adapted resources and school feeding, ensuring that children receive comprehensive support tailored to their needs.

Supporting Staff and Infrastructure

Ethar Relief is dedicated to ensuring that schools have the necessary resources to provide quality education. This includes funding staff salaries, maintaining school facilities, and providing essential materials.

Sponsorship of Staff Salaries

By covering salaries for teaching and support staff, Ethar ensures that schools can attract and retain skilled professionals, even in rural and resource-scarce regions. This support is crucial for maintaining the quality of education and providing stability for both staff and students.

Infrastructure Development

Ethar Relief invests in the construction and maintenance of school facilities, including classrooms, washrooms, and safety infrastructure. For example, the Shahida Jabeen Education Centre in East Sudan received new classrooms, resources and furniture thanks to Ethar's education campaign, improving the learning environment for female students and expanding the school's effective provision.



The Ethar Family:

Sultan

Our own Founder, Sultan Omar, was a refugee. He speaks candidly on why he feels so strongly that education programmes for refugees are essential provision.

In his own words: "Our only education was harshness and hardship - how to hide and get away from danger."

"I knew how precious education was. And how, just like food, clothes and medicine, the rich people seemed to have it..."

"Not having access to education hurt me like not having access to food or water."

Support Ethar's Education Programme and Bring Better Life Chances to Thousands of Refugee Children.

Ethar Relief's education programmes are integral to our mission of breaking the cycle of poverty and fostering self-sufficiency among refugee communities. By providing consistent support across primary, secondary, and traditional education, as well as special education programmes, we ensure that children have the opportunity to thrive academically and personally. Our efforts, supported by dedicated donors and partners, continue to make a lasting impact on the lives of countless refugee children and their families.

Supporting Orphans and Refugee Children

Please, imagine today
if you were in the place of an orphan.

Not just an orphan anywhere. An orphan child in a
conflict zone, in a refugee camp in East Africa.

These children are like yours and mine, but they are in the greatest danger and have no-one to turn to for basic care.

Please, don't turn away.

According to the official statistics from OCHA, in Sudan nearly 14 million children – half the country's child population – now require humanitarian assistance. Over 700,000 children are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition, with the number climbing higher as the conflict continues.

The plight of orphans in East Africa and Yemen is one of the most critical humanitarian issues Ethar Relief addresses. These vulnerable children face numerous dangers and overwhelming needs that require immediate and sustained intervention.

Ethar Relief is dedicated to providing comprehensive support for orphans and vulnerable children in East Africa and Yemen, addressing their feeding, welfare, safety, education, and medical needs. Our programmes are designed to ensure that the most vulnerable children receive the care and resources they need to thrive.

The Dangers Facing Orphans

Orphans in refugee camps often lack the most basic necessities, including adequate food, clean water, and access to education. The absence of parental protection and guidance leaves them vulnerable to a multitude of risks. These children are often forced to grow up quickly, shouldering responsibilities beyond their years and enduring the harsh realities of life in refugee camps.

Without the security and care of a family, orphans are at significant risk of exploitation, abuse, and neglect. The dangers they face include:

- Malnutrition and Hunger: Many orphans do not receive regular, nutritious meals, leading to severe malnutrition and health issues.
- Lack of Education: Without access to education, orphans are deprived of the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and build a better future.
- Exploitation and Abuse: Orphans are highly vulnerable to trafficking, forced labour, and other forms of exploitation and abuse.

- Health Risks: The lack of medical care and poor living conditions expose orphans to preventable diseases and chronic health problems.

- Psychosocial Challenges: The trauma of losing parents and the harsh realities of refugee life can lead to severe emotional and psychological distress.

“The suffering of orphans in the refugee camps is one of the most difficult things to witness – especially for our young girls; without fathers to protect and provide for them within such a traditional social structure, they are left abandoned and vulnerable. Hundreds of thousands of young children have abruptly had their childhood snatched away from them; having to grow up quickly and adapt to a life without the love and protection of their parents that they have always known and depended on”.

This underscores the urgency of providing comprehensive support to orphans, addressing their immediate needs, and ensuring their long-term safety and development. Ethar Relief remains committed to mitigating these dangers and meeting the needs of orphaned children through our comprehensive programmes that provide food, shelter, education, and medical care. By doing so, we strive to give these children the hope, stability and opportunities they deserve for a brighter future.





Welfare and Safety

The welfare and safety of orphans are at the forefront of Ethar's mission. We provide safe living environments and ensure that orphans are protected from harm and exploitation.

Safe Housing

Ethar Relief constructs and maintains accommodation for caregivers including boarding schools and safe houses that offer secure and nurturing environments for orphans. These facilities are equipped with basic amenities and are monitored to ensure the safety and well-being of the children.

Psychosocial Support

Recognising the trauma that many orphans have experienced, Ethar offers psychosocial support services, including counselling and recreational activities, to help children cope with their experiences and build themselves back up positively.

Orphan Sponsorship

Through this programme, orphans receive monthly food packs that include essential items like grains, lentils, juice, oil, and dates. These packs are tailored to meet the dietary needs of growing children and provide them with the energy and nutrients necessary for their physical and cognitive development.

Feeding & Nutrition

Ethar Relief prioritises the nutritional needs of orphans, ensuring they have access to regular and nutritious meals. Our feeding programmes are designed to combat malnutrition and support the healthy growth and development of orphaned children.





Education

Education is a critical component of our support for orphans. Ethar provides access to quality education, ensuring that orphaned children have the opportunity to learn and succeed. Without anyone to advocate for them and pay for schooling, no orphan child would ever get education in a refugee camp.

School Sponsorships

Ethar Relief sponsors the education of orphans, covering tuition fees, school supplies, uniforms, and other educational expenses. This support extends from primary through secondary education, and in some cases, to higher education.

Boarding Schools

The flagship Al Mustaqbal schools for boys and girls provide comprehensive education and full boarding facilities for orphans. The schools cater to refugee orphans and other vulnerable children, ensuring they receive high-quality education and care in a supportive environment.

The Ethar Family:

Ibrahim

Ibrahim's office is organised, efficient, and exactly as you would expect it to be. As a professional working on development projects for a global NGO, Ibrahim is at home navigating a complex web of challenges, drawing on a mixture of training, formal academic qualifications, and life experience.

Despite his maturity and the responsibilities he fulfils, Ibrahim is still a very young man, and his face shines with passion and energetic enthusiasm for what he does. Today, however, we are not here to talk about his work - we are here to talk about his life.



A Most Difficult Start

Ibrahim was born in a refugee camp in East Sudan and became an orphan at 11 years old. His story, though heart-breaking, is not surprising – the dangers present within the camp environment mean that life expectancy is short, and many children lose their parents before adulthood. Already afflicted by extreme depravation, Ibrahim and his siblings were brought to the attention of Ethar Relief, a global NGO specialising in alleviating poverty and suffering in East Africa.

The children were immediately enrolled into Ethar's Orphan Sponsorship Programme, which takes holistic care of the needs of orphans by providing them clothing, food, and medicine, as well as finding them a place at school. This moment proved life-changing for Ibrahim, as his worries after parental loss melted away and a world of opportunity and possibility was revealed.

Hope, opportunity, and potential

Ibrahim began to flourish from the moment he started receiving good quality care, regular nutritious meals, and access to a well-rounded education. He proved to be exceptionally bright and capable of anything he put his mind to. Ibrahim rapidly excelled through Ethar's Al Mustaqbal secondary boarding school, and progressed to receive a full university scholarship.

Ibrahim speaks passionately about the nurturing environment of the Al Mustaqbal School. In his own words, Ibrahim was encouraged and supported by the "best teachers" who provided the "best environment for learning". The environment not only helped him to study in the English medium and reach the top of his English club at school, it also gave him a focus away from his traumatic early life. Speaking to Ibrahim now, he conducts calls and interviews in impeccable and precise English (one of three languages in which he is fluent), dealing with a variety of stakeholders from around the globe. Ibrahim humbly insists this confidence was instilled in him by his secondary school teachers.

While at university, Ibrahim was supported by Ethar Relief through a sufficient stipend to enable him to complete his studies to the best of his ability. This is a unique feature of Ethar's sponsorship programme – the organisation will work with sponsors and donors to ensure that the right support is given, suited to the needs of each child and continuing if required into young adulthood. Within a few short years, Ibrahim emerged as a graduate in computer science from a recognised institution in Sudan.

Paying it forward: Ibrahim today

Ibrahim talks with passion about the support he received from Ethar Relief. He is humble about his own brilliance, and instead focuses on how bespoke support can transform a life such as his. He suggests that if Ethar's Orphan Programme was just a simple and impersonal bursary, he may have been fed and kept healthy, but he would never have excelled to the point of his current qualifications and further achievements. The responsiveness and personalised care provided by Ethar Relief, Ibrahim asserts, is the key to helping the next generation find a pathway for themselves to build their future



outside refugee camps. Food, clothes, and box-ticking is not enough to uplift children to achieve their potential.

Today, Ibrahim's life has come full circle. He is now a Project Manager for Ethar Relief, working in the Sudan office. His daily work involves implementing humanitarian projects for the refugee camps that he is so familiar with. He possesses a unique drive to deliver the very best for his community, and his work is recognised and cherished by the refugees he serves. Ibrahim is an inspiration to us and to everyone around him.

"You'd never think he was a refugee orphan..."

Ibrahim hears this comment a lot from people he meets in his professional capacity. But what is a refugee orphan except for a child just like our own? A child with hopes, dreams, and needs – a child with the ability to achieve anything when given a fair opportunity to do so.

Ibrahim has an analogy about supporting orphans in a comprehensive and holistic way. He believes that sponsoring an orphan is like watering a seed. The additional support provided is the good soil, shelter, and optimal environmental conditions. If the support for the seed is right, it will flourish and grow into a tree whose branches can then provide shelter and shade to others. In time, this tree will shed seeds of its own into the ground. Ibrahim's aim is to help others achieve their potential, and this is the noble work he has committed his life towards.

Background: The Plight of Orphan Children

The forgotten refugees of East Sudan and Yemen face numerous challenges, from hunger and thirst to illness and exploitation. Among the most vulnerable are orphan children, who navigate these harsh environments without the protection and care of parents. Each year, Ethar Relief encounters many such children, and their numbers continue to grow. These orphans come from various backgrounds – some lost their families to disease and natural disasters, others were kidnapped or trafficked, and many were sent alone to flee conflict.

Surviving in Refugee Camps

Refugee camps are challenging places, even in the best of times. Basic facilities such as shelter, water, food, and medicine are often scarce or non-existent. In these settings, the rule of 'survival of the fittest' prevails. Those who cannot travel long distances to access resources or are not strong enough to compete for them are likely to miss out. This reality is particularly harsh for orphans, who are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in the camps.

The Crisis Deepens

East Sudan, recognised by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as a melting pot of refugee crises, has seen a steep increase in the orphan population. Recent UN statistics indicate a very steep rise in the number of unaccompanied children in the camps. Refugees from Eritrea, Somalia, Djibouti, Yemen, and from within Sudan itself have fled to this region, in the absence of any better option.

Fatimah's Story

Ethar Relief met Fatimah, a 10-year-old orphan caring for her younger sister and other children in the camp. After losing her father to disease, Fatimah faced significant challenges in a harsh

environment where a father's protection was crucial. Despite her struggles, Fatimah expressed a desire to develop herself quickly, secure a great job, and support other orphans. Her ultimate goal was to become a journalist to share the stories of her community.

Fatimah's maturity and resilience were evident as she spoke of her father's death and the difficulties of life in the camp. Ethar Relief enrolled her in the Orphan Sponsorship programme, enabling her to attend school and gain qualifications. By the time she was 17, Fatimah was working towards becoming a journalist, a testament to her hard work and determination, and the support of her sponsor.

Ethar Relief's Impact

Ethar Relief's Orphan Sponsorship programme provides comprehensive care for orphaned children, including food, shelter, education, and medical support. This programme ensures that orphans like Fatimah can pursue their dreams without the constant worry of survival. By addressing immediate needs and offering long-term support, Ethar Relief helps transform the lives of these vulnerable children.

A Call to Action

The lives of refugees are complex, intertwined with long-established communities and traditions. Many have been consigned to camps for generations, striving for dignity, opportunity, and recognition of their challenges. They seek to work, provide for their families, and live normal, dignified lives. Ethar Relief urges you to become part of this transformative work by sponsoring an orphan through our Orphan Sponsorship programme.

Development and Training: Women, Girls and Vulnerable Groups

"Empowering women refugees and the most vulnerable members of society to be self-sufficient, productive and safe."

The dangerous situation facing refugee women and girls

Due to the horrific conditions within refugee camps, thousands of vulnerable young women escape the hardship and horrific conditions every year, or emigrate from small villages in East Sudan. They arrive in big cities such as Khartoum, Kassala and Port Sudan in search of basic sustenance, work, and security.

This is not a surprising state of affairs; the conditions in refugee camps and surrounding poor villages are extremely hostile due to lack of food, health provision and clean water, with no jobs or employment prospects to try and lift inhabitants

out of poverty. For the majority of young women, moving to a large city becomes a dream.

"The reality, however, is very grave and dangerous."

Women arrive in cities, often unaccompanied or with very young children, with no education, job prospects or fully developed social skills. They are vulnerable to exploitation and end up in the streets of these cities begging and much worse.

Traffickers prey on such vulnerable women, as they are easy targets with no connections within big cities – the women can find themselves being exploited, physically and mentally abused, and many of them can suffer extreme violence and sexual exploitation.

Without even the most basic skills to be able to work and earn a living, these women can often find themselves making terrible compromises as they are made to feel they have nothing to offer.

Why is this happening?

Due to a variety of cultural and socio-political circumstances and with the added challenge of extreme poverty, it will always be the case that women in these locations are much more susceptible to mistreatment and exploitation.

Furthermore, as many relief organisations and NGOs will report, it's not as simple as warning these women not to travel to big cities or escape from refugee camps because of the inherent danger. Firstly, these dangers also exist within refugee camps and in rural areas. Secondly, the desperation of their situation is unfathomable and their hardship unimaginable in scale - they naturally feel compelled to try anything to escape the current predicament that they experience as a refugee or displaced person who has lost everything.

A positive solution

At Ethar Relief we understand the motivation for women to want to escape the refugee camp environment and improve their situation for themselves and their families. We are working with local partners to provide formalised assistance, training and guidance to women of all ages and stages of life, to support them through this difficult and dangerous period in their journey for a better life.

Ethar Relief is committed to providing development and training opportunities that empower women and vulnerable adults within refugee communities. Our programmes aim to equip participants with essential skills, foster economic independence, and enhance their overall quality of life.



Women Development Project

The Women Development Project is one of Ethar's flagship initiatives, focusing on empowering women in refugee camps by providing them with the tools and skills needed to achieve self-sufficiency and improve their living conditions.

Training and Education

The project offers comprehensive training and education programmes designed to equip women with essential skills. These include literacy and numeracy classes, vocational training in areas such as sewing, baking, and sales, and introductions to various job markets.

Literacy and Numeracy Classes

Participants receive 26 weeks of classes to improve their basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills, which are crucial for both personal development and economic participation.

Vocational Training

Practical training sessions lasting 8 to 12 weeks help women gain skills in specific trades, enabling them to secure employment or start their own businesses. This includes work experience opportunities and on-the-job training with reputable local businesses and institutions.

Business Start-Up Support

Ethar Relief provides business start-up and support packs for up to 12 months, promoting entrepreneurship and independence. Participants also have access to small business loans of up to £250 to help them establish their enterprises.

Comprehensive Support Packages

The support packages offered by Ethar Relief aim to stabilise the lives of vulnerable women by providing a range of resources and training. This holistic approach ensures that participants are not only skilled but also supported in all aspects of their journey towards self-reliance.

Safe Spaces

The project includes the provision of permanent safe spaces where women can receive ongoing training, education, and support. These spaces are crucial for safeguarding women from trafficking, violence, and exploitation.

Peer Support Systems

Group support sessions are conducted to establish peer support systems, fostering a community of mutual assistance and encouragement. Seminars on self-esteem, dignity, healthy lifestyle choices, and positive aspirations are also provided.

Objectives and Impact

The primary objectives of the Women Development Project are to:

Equip Women with Skills:

Train a minimum of 100 women annually in Kassala, providing them with a range of skills that stabilise their lives and enhance their economic prospects.

Prevent Homelessness and Exploitation:

Through education and awareness, the project aims to prevent conditions that lead to homelessness and safeguard women from trafficking and exploitation.

Promote Positive Community Participation:

Encourage women to participate positively within their communities, thereby improving their self-esteem and sense of dignity.

The Ethar Family: Women Development Successes

The impact of Ethar's development and training programmes can be seen in the success stories of the women we support.

Street Shop Initiative

This group of women was helped to set up small street shops, providing an income so they didn't have to beg in the streets. Another group of women, desperate to provide care for disabled or severely ill family members, were able to start small businesses with Ethar Relief's support, ensuring a stable income for their households.

Many of the young women who enter our programmes have been unaccompanied minors who have fled war zones and lost relatives along the dangerous journey. For them, the prospect of gaining skills and uplifting themselves out of poverty, especially after such a difficult start at an early age, is life-changing.

The success of Ethar Relief's development spaces is evident in the testimonials and stories we receive from the refugees themselves.

"The Women's Development Centre has changed my life. I learned how to sew and now I can support my family with the income I earn. It is a place where we feel safe and supported."

- A young refugee woman attending the Ethar Women Development Centre.

Skills Development for Vulnerable Adults

In addition to the Women Development Project, Ethar Relief also runs programmes aimed at developing the skills of other vulnerable adults within refugee communities. These initiatives focus on providing vocational training, job placement, and support for small business development.

Vocational Training Centres

These centres offer courses in various trades such as carpentry, metalwork, and handicrafts, helping participants gain marketable skills that lead to employment opportunities.

Job Placement and Support

Ethar collaborates with local employers to provide job placement services, ensuring that trained individuals can find work and support their families. This collaboration helps bridge the gap between training and employment, making the transition smoother for participants.

The impact of skills development

These initiatives help to restore confidence and dignity to refugees who, after fleeing into a foreign land with nothing, can feel like outsiders who are not natural citizens of their new place of refuge. Skills development helps refugees to recognise their value and to contribute positively within the new social structure, thereby increasing wider community cohesion and understanding.

Ethar Relief's development and training programmes are vital for empowering women and vulnerable adults in refugee communities. By providing comprehensive training, education, and support, we help participants achieve economic independence and improve their quality of life. Our efforts, supported by dedicated donors and partners, continue to make a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals.





Medical Care

Access to medical care is crucial for the overall well-being of orphans. Ethar Relief ensures that orphaned children receive regular health check-ups and medical treatment as needed. In Sudan, for example, more than 70% of the hospitals are closed due to the ongoing civil war. 10,400 Cholera and 4,400 Malaria cases exist (and climbing), according to World Health Organization official data for Sudan.

Medical Screenings and Treatments

Orphans under Ethar's care receive regular health screenings and necessary medical treatments. This includes vaccinations, treatment for common illnesses, and specialised care for chronic conditions.

Health Education

Ethar Relief also provides health education to orphans, teaching them about hygiene practices, nutrition, and disease prevention to promote long-term health and well-being.

Additional Resources and Support

Beyond the basic needs, Ethar Relief offers additional resources and support to enhance the lives of orphans.

Clothing and Personal Items

Regular distribution of clothing, hygiene products, and other personal items ensures that orphans have what they need to feel comfortable and cared for.

Recreational Activities

Ethar Relief organises recreational activities and outings for orphans, providing them with opportunities for play, socialisation, and normal childhood experiences.

Our holistic approach not only meets the immediate needs of refugee children but also lays the foundation for a brighter and more secure future. With the continued support of our donors and partners, we will persist in our mission to provide hope and relief to orphans in East Africa and Yemen.

Who is Intisar?

Intisar is one of the thousands of children who are born into refugee camps in East Sudan every year. Life in refugee camps, in this part of the world, is extremely hostile; children in particular never know a normal life, and are unaware of the meaning of a normal childhood. For them, life means struggle, hardship, pain, hunger, illness, danger, and humiliation – with no hope of escape. This has a profound effect on their development in all areas of life and can have severe long-term consequences, for them and their families.

A Start no Child should Endure

We met Intisar when she was 11 years old, as part of an Ethar Relief initiative to reach out to orphaned children in refugee camps. At such a tender age, the fragile world around her had already collapsed, and she had suffered from the most terrible trauma. A few years earlier, she had lost her mother to a simple sickness – one of the most common causes of preventable deaths in Sudan's refugee camps. Due to her young age and the complete lack of medical care available, Intisar does not even know the name or nature of the illness that took her mother. Her father, who was living elsewhere in order to find work and send back provisions for the family, returned home immediately to be with his children. However, within six months, he was dead too, taken by a similar illness that ravaged the camp.

The Devastation of Loss

Intisar and her siblings were alone and very vulnerable. Children are the most vulnerable members of the refugee community, and orphans are at the highest risk from all kinds of exploitation, danger, and disadvantage. Girls like Intisar are in the highest possible category of risk, and need urgent protection from the most horrific abuses. Furthermore, there is no capacity within

the refugee camp environment for sympathy, mourning, or recovery from loss. Children who lose loved ones are still stuck in an endless struggle for the basics of survival, and have no time or opportunity to grieve, and no-one to turn to in times of emotional vulnerability. A refugee camp has no compassion and no mercy.

Social and cultural conventions in the camps, and society at large, place a large amount of importance on the presence of a male within the family structure. This is considered a protection for families in the hostile environment, as well as a source of prosperity and income. Intisar and her sisters had hoped that their younger brother might grow up to help provide food and security for their small family, in the absence of both parents. However, within a year of their father's death, Intisar's brother was also gone, a life taken by disease once again.

Escalation of Danger

The story of Intisar's life, thereafter, is one of unimaginable hardship, risk, and danger. Intisar and her three sisters found themselves migrating from one refugee camp to another. At each stage, no one was able to help them, but plenty were trying to exploit them. Intisar, herself, became

injured and sustained severe damage to her leg due to weakness, malnutrition and the debilitating effect of the environment around her. As the sisters grew up, trying to find safe and suitable accommodation for unaccompanied teenage girls in the refugee camp proved impossible. When Ethar Relief found them, they were at the lowest point of their lives.

A Ray of Hope

Ethar Relief, as a charity with its own staff on the ground in East Sudan, was in a position to take responsibility for Intisar and her siblings, and

monitor their ongoing progress. This was achieved through public donations and sponsorships to its Orphan Sponsorship programme. Ethar arranged for the safe accommodation of Intisar and her sisters in Wadi Sharifeh, paying for a foster family to take in the girls and look after them. Intisar was also flown, by Ethar Relief, to Cairo for treatment on her injured leg, which is now better than before and has a less disabling effect on her day-to-day activities.

Progress towards a Normal Life

By the time she was 16 years old, Intisar had a home, a foster family, and access to Ethar's education and healthcare programmes. What we have managed to do for these girls does not erase the trauma they have been through, but it can contribute towards a better future than most refugee children could ever imagine. Ethar Relief secured sponsorship for a small plot of land upon which Intisar and her sisters could build a small house to live in when they transition to adulthood. Furthermore, Ethar Relief's 'Women Development' programme provides opportunities for women of all ages to gain skills suitable for employment, in order to empower them and provide an alternative to some of the unjust systems that disadvantage them.

Intisar and her sisters have been repairing their lives and recovering from their experiences. We hope that they keep smiling as they start to feel the dignity of a stable and safe life, as well as the light of opportunity that guides them out of the refugee camp in the future. However, we remain bitterly aware that for every story like Intisar's, there are countless children who escape the notice of charities, NGOs, or anyone else who can help.

Community Spaces: Building Masjids and Centres

“Enhancing Dignity, Unity, and Socially Beneficial Services.”

Ethar Relief understands the critical need for community spaces in refugee camps, such as community centres and mosques (masjids). These spaces not only provide essential services but also foster a sense of unity, dignity, and spiritual well-being among refugees.

The Need for Community Spaces

In refugee camps, the conditions are often dire, with limited access to food, water, healthcare, and security. Amidst these challenges, community spaces serve as vital hubs for social interaction, education, and spiritual nourishment. They play a crucial role in enhancing the day-to-day life experiences of refugees, providing much-needed relief from the harsh conditions of camp life.

The need for easily accessible places of worship

Ethar Relief recognises that alongside humanitarian aid, there are many other types of facilities necessary to ensure the long-term dignity of refugees and build up their spirits.

The vast majority of people in refugee camps are of Muslim faith, eager to practice their religion wholeheartedly despite the many difficulties they face.

Refugee groups have expressed the need for a masjid to provide a focal point for the community in the camp and enable spiritual development within a peaceful and tranquil space.

Furthermore, provision of a facility such as a masjid acknowledges that the refugees have needs beyond food and water – a crucial factor in humanising their condition and treating them with respect and dignity.

Community Centres

Community centres are at the heart of Ethar Relief’s efforts to support and uplift refugee communities. These centres offer a variety of services designed to meet the diverse needs of refugees.

Educational and Vocational Training

Community centres provide educational programmes, including literacy and numeracy classes, computer skills training, and vocational courses such as sewing, baking, and sales. These programmes help refugees gain valuable skills that enhance their employability and economic independence.

Social Services and Counselling

The centres offer social services, including psychosocial support and counselling, which are crucial for helping refugees cope with the trauma of displacement and build themselves back up.

Recreational Activities

Community centres also provide recreational activities and sports programmes, promoting physical health and well-being. These activities offer a sense of normalcy and joy, especially for children and young people who have endured significant hardships.

Mosques (Masjids)

Mosques play a pivotal role in the spiritual and social lives of Muslim refugees. Ethar Relief supports the construction and maintenance of mosques to ensure that refugees have access to spaces for worship and religious education.

Spiritual Support and Worship

Mosques provide a place for communal prayers, religious observances, and spiritual guidance. They help maintain the faith and morale of refugees who

face numerous challenges. Chaplaincy is a vital and crucial touchpoint for refugee and community members to access clerical services and reconcile their experiences and conditions with their spiritual beliefs.

Religious Education

Many mosques also serve as centres for religious education, offering Quran Hifz (memorisation) projects, Quran Halaqat (study groups), and other diverse ranges of classes and discussion groups on religious studies. These programmes help preserve cultural and religious traditions, fostering a strong sense of community and connection between refugees themselves, and between refugees and host community members.



Specific Projects and Impact

Ethar Relief has implemented several projects to establish and enhance community spaces. These projects not only provide immediate benefits but also contribute to long-term community development and cohesion.

Build a Masjid Project

In the Shagarab Refugee Camp in East Sudan, Ethar Relief has constructed a new mosque to serve the spiritual and communal needs of over 5,000 people. This masjid accommodates up to 800 people at one time and host Quran Hifz (memorisation) projects, Quran Halaqat (study groups), and other religious and community education and social programmes. The masjid aims to boost the self-esteem and dignity of the congregation and foster community-led activities. It is a flagship project, designed to be a blueprint for future constructions in other camps and regions where refugee populations are predominant.

Women's Development Centre

As part of our Women Development Project, Ethar Relief has established centres that focus on empowering women through education and vocational training. These centres provide a safe space for women to learn new skills, access counselling and support services, and participate in community activities, thereby enhancing their overall well-being and economic prospects.

Youth and Sports Centres

To engage younger refugees who may be out of mainstream schooling or skills training, Ethar supports the creation of youth centres that offer sports facilities, educational programmes, and vocational training. These centres help keep young people engaged in positive activities, reducing the risk of their involvement in harmful behaviours and providing them with skills for the future.

A holistic approach to relief

Ethar Relief's commitment to creating and supporting community spaces, such as community centres and mosques, is a cornerstone of our holistic approach to refugee support.

These spaces provide essential services, foster community cohesion, and enhance the overall well-being of refugees. With the continued support of our generous donors and partners, we can ensure that these vital hubs are constantly serving those in need, helping them build better futures.



Join Us

Transform Lives with Ethar Relief

Ethar Relief is dedicated to providing comprehensive support to refugees across East Africa and Yemen. Our mission is to bring hope, dignity, and sustainable change to the lives of those who have been displaced by conflict, persecution, and natural disasters. By partnering with us or supporting us, you have the opportunity to make a profound impact on some of the most vulnerable communities in the world.

Why Your Support Matters

The need for humanitarian aid has never been more pressing. Refugee camps are overcrowded, and the conditions are dire, with insufficient provision of food, water, healthcare, and security. New conflicts have heaped pressure upon already overwhelmed systems. There isn't enough to go round. The challenges are immense, but with your support, we can bring about transformative change.

Here's how your contributions can make a difference:

Emergency Response and Disaster Relief

Ethar Relief is on the front lines of emergency response, providing vital aid to refugees fleeing conflict and natural disasters. Our rapid response teams deliver food, clean water, medical care, and shelter to those in immediate need. For instance, during the outbreak of the Sudan civil conflict and during the Tigray crisis in Ethiopia, our teams set up welcome stations to provide hot meals and essential supplies to new arrivals into camps, helping to stabilise their lives amidst utter chaos, devastation and loss.

Comprehensive Food Aid Programmes

We run extensive food aid programmes, ensuring that refugees receive regular, nutritious meals. Our initiatives include:

- Family Feeding Programmes: Distributing food packs that sustain families for a month.
- School Feeding Programmes: Providing meals to children, which improves attendance and academic performance.
- Seasonal Campaigns: Delivering special food distributions during Ramadan and Qurbani seasons to meet increased needs and bring joy to refugee communities .

Water and Sanitation Projects

Access to clean water is critical for health and well-being. Ethar Relief constructs wells, boreholes, and provides mobile water distribution services to ensure that refugees have reliable access to safe drinking water. Our sanitation projects reduce the spread of water-borne diseases and improve overall community health.

Education and Empowerment

Education is a cornerstone of our mission. Ethar Relief supports primary, secondary, and traditional schools, providing resources, teacher salaries, and educational materials. Our Women Development Project empowers women with skills including literacy, numeracy, vocational training, and business start-up support, helping them to achieve economic independence and improve their families' lives.

Supporting Orphans

Orphans are among the most vulnerable in refugee communities. Ethar offers comprehensive care, including food, shelter, education, and medical support, ensuring that these children are protected and nurtured. Our orphan sponsorship programme helps stabilise children's lives and offers them a brighter future.

Building Community Spaces

Community spaces such as mosques and community centres are vital for fostering unity and providing essential services. These spaces serve as hubs for education, social interaction, and spiritual nourishment, helping to maintain cultural and religious traditions while supporting the overall well-being of the community.



The Power of Your Partnership

Every single penny of money given to the refugee cause helps. The more you can give, the better it correlates with positive outcomes and impacts for refugee communities across East Africa. Significant donations from individuals and organisational funders have the unique ability to drive substantial change.

Your partnership with Ethar Relief can:

- **Enhance our Capacity:** Enable us to expand our reach and improve the quality of our services.
- **Sustain Critical Programmes:** Provide consistent support for ongoing projects and new initiatives.
- **Innovate Solutions:** Fund innovative projects that address complex challenges in refugee camps.

By joining us, you become a crucial part of a global movement dedicated to alleviating suffering and building sustainable futures for refugees across The Horn of Africa region. Your contribution not only transforms individual lives but also fosters resilience and hope within entire communities.

How to Get Involved

There are several ways to support Ethar Relief:

- **Make a Donation:** Your financial contribution can directly fund our emergency responses, food programmes, water projects, educational initiatives, and more.
- **Sponsor a Project:** Choose to support a specific project that resonates with you, such as building a new community centre or sponsoring educational programmes for children and women.
- **Partner with Us:** Collaborate on long-term initiatives, provide strategic support, or help us expand our network of supporters.

Together, we can light the path to a brighter future for refugees in East Africa and Yemen. Join us in making a lasting impact today. See the back cover for our contact information.

The Ethar Family: A Parting Word of Inspiration

“A final message from our Founder, Sultan Omar.”

Support for the forgotten Eritrean refugees comes in many forms. In my work I see both sides of the humanitarian crisis – on the one hand, I see people suffering in terrible conditions; on the other hand, I also see people eager to help in any way they can.

The message I received from an elderly woman today moved me to tears, and I have sought her permission to share it with you.

She sent me this picture of a pair of old gold bangles. They belonged to her mother who passed away years ago, and the earliest memory she has of them exceeds 40 years. As Eritrean refugees now living in Saudi Arabia, the bangles represent a precious connection with a long-distant heritage. The woman who called me is not wealthy, and in fact these two pieces of jewellery were the only thing of value they possessed in their household.

The woman had kept the bangles safe all these years for the sentimental connection they had with her mother, and to pass down to her own daughter as a gift and a family heirloom. This treasure was more than gold: it was a treasure of memories, emotions and feelings experienced by a family of migrant refugees finding their feet in a new land.

Due to the lockdown situation in her home in Saudi Arabia, the woman felt the biting need to raise money to pay for essential supplies. She started to consider whether they should take the bitter decision to sacrifice the bangles and sell them, in order to get the supplies they needed to live comfortably. But then she thought against it and decided to make do. After all, the bangles were more important to her than anything else.

But then she had another thought. If she was willing to sacrifice the bangles for an urgent need,

then why not do just that? What about her forgotten Eritrean sisters and brothers still trapped in refugee camps across the sea? Was their need not urgent?

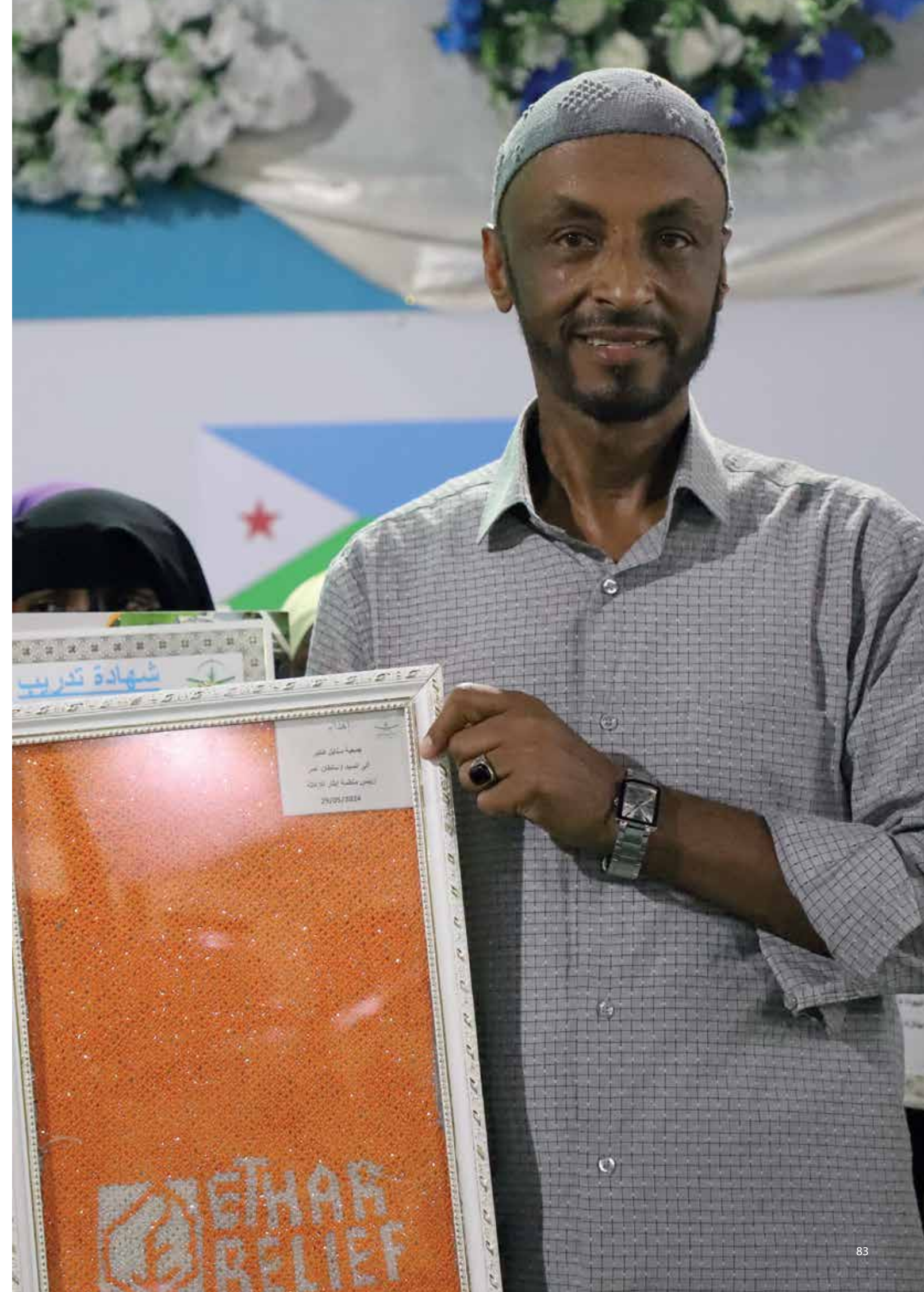
These bangles don't exist any more. They have been melted down and sold on. The elderly woman has sent the money that she received for them to her daughter with the message: Give this money to Ethar Relief, and pray for the ones who wore these bangles.

The woman's voice is happy and content in her message to me. The bangles which have brought her joy and good memories will now go on to benefit those who need urgent help.

This is the test of love. The love for what is really beautiful, and lasts forever. She loved another's need more than the most precious thing in her possession.

I was lost for words for a long time after receiving that message. I pray that we learn something from this woman's beautiful example and reflect it in our actions.

Remember the forgotten.





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