



Southern Women's Aid Network (Swan)

Donor Report 2024-2025

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Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) No. 1188649
The charity is non-profit making, and its trustees are volunteers.



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Message from Our Chairperson

Dear SWAN Supporters and Well-Wishers,

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

In terms of financials, our total income for the year amounted to **£970,644.82**, comprising generous donations and legacies, **Gift Aid contributions of £19,283.83**, and **grants of £63,813.00**. We received **£71,136.66 in Zakat**, with total expenditure directed towards initiatives in the UK and overseas reaching **£818,140.78**.

This past year, SWAN continued its critical work in **Palestine**, responding to the escalating humanitarian crisis in **Gaza** with emergency food, water, grants, and medical aid.

Locally, in **South London**, SWAN continues to address social issues through multifaceted approaches. Our weekly food banks and three soup kitchens have provided essential sustenance to **9,840 beneficiaries**, ensuring that no fresh food goes to waste through collaborations with partner food banks. Initiatives such as the **Refugee Children's Art Club** and **monthly Tea & Talk sessions** for adults have promoted mental wellbeing and community connection.

We have also begun developing a **Community Drop-In Service**, offering a safe and confidential space for those seeking advice, emotional support, or practical help – an initiative that reflects our commitment to meet people where they are and provide holistic care.

Internationally, our impact has expanded across **Pakistan, Afghanistan, Malawi, Bangladesh, Gaza-Palestine Syria, and now Madagascar**. Through our new partnership with Croissant d'Espoir de Madagascar, we delivered **food packs to elderly people, widows, and orphans** – ensuring that the most vulnerable had access to nutritious meals and dignity in daily life.



We extend heartfelt gratitude to everyone in our community and to partner organisations such as **Don's Local Action Group, The Felix Project, FareShare, Lidl, and Gail's Bakery**, whose weekly food donations continue to support our community pantries and families in need.

In conclusion, SWAN's multifaceted efforts – both locally and globally – highlight our commitment to creating sustainable, compassionate change in the world. We remain deeply grateful for your trust, generosity, and belief in our mission.

Warm regards,
Saiqa Ali
Chair/CEO

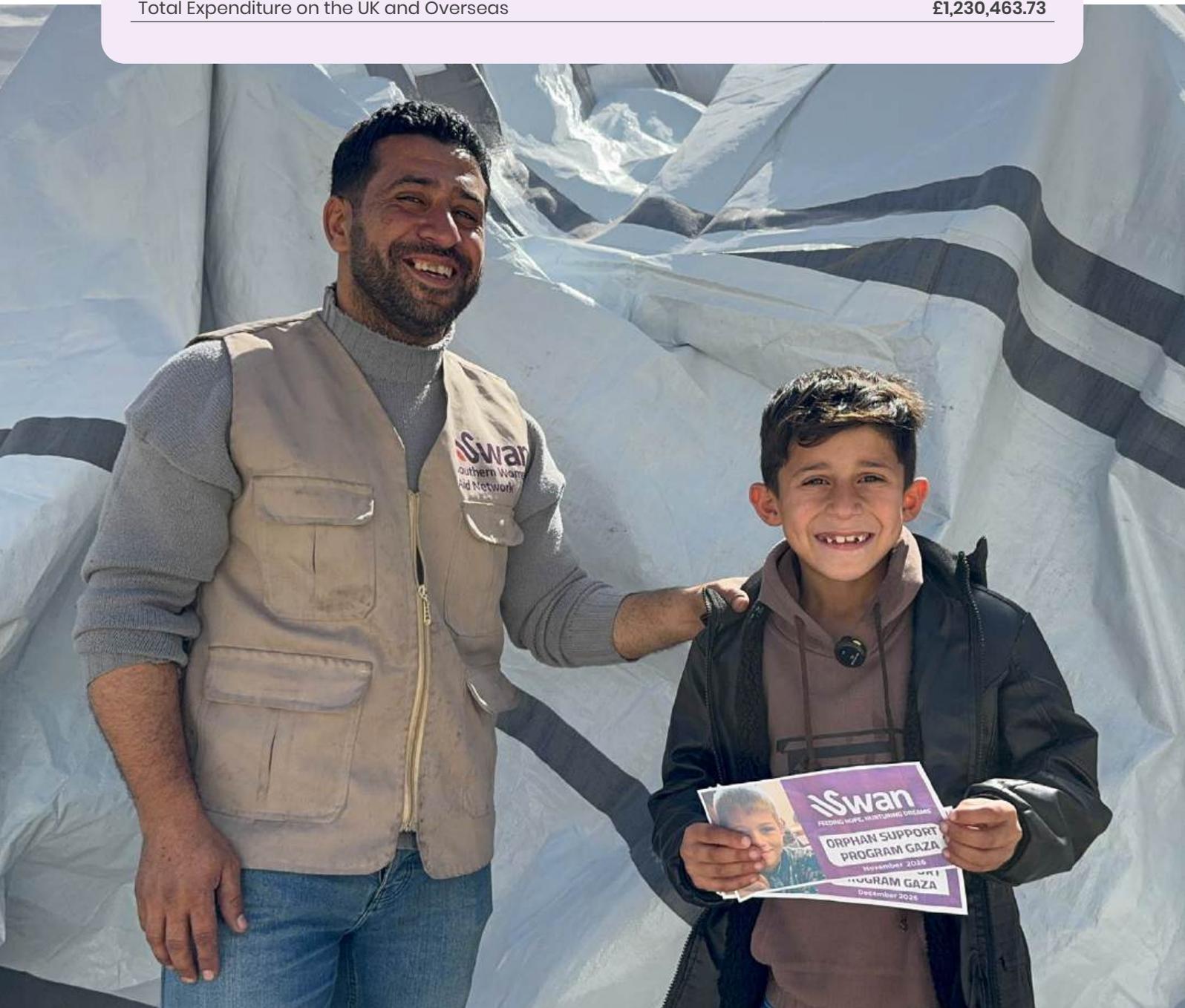
Financial Breakdown

Income

Total Income	£1,343,041.53
Gift Aid Contributions	£26,612.00
Grants	£24,905.00
Zakat received	£71,136.66

Expenditure

Total Expenditure on the UK and Overseas	£1,230,463.73
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Achievements and Performance

SWAN has made a significant impact on the communities we serve through a holistic, three-tier approach of **Survival, Support, and Sustainability** – addressing urgent needs while empowering people for long-term resilience.

In **South London**, SWAN continues to run weekly food banks and three weekly soup kitchens, collectively providing for over **9,840 beneficiaries**. We also collaborate with other food banks to ensure no fresh food goes to waste, regularly donating surplus supplies to **St Martin's Community Centre**.

In addition to food aid, we offer emotional and social support through community-building initiatives such as our **Refugee Children's Art Club** and **monthly Tea & Talk gatherings** for adults.

As part of our continued commitment to holistic community support, we are now developing a **Community Drop-In Service**, which will be a confidential and welcoming space for anyone in need – offering advice, emotional support, and signposting to local services.





Case Study: Noor – Gaza Family Support Programme

Noor is a mother of four from Jabalia who has been displaced multiple times since the conflict began. She currently lives with her children in a temporary shelter, where access to food, clean water, and basic necessities is extremely limited.

Through SWAN's Gaza Family Support Programme, Noor received a cash grant that allowed her to purchase essential food and hygiene items for her family. She also took part in psychosocial support sessions for mothers, helping her cope with trauma-related stress and better support her children during this crisis.

The programme provides food, clean water, medicine, and hygiene supplies, alongside psychosocial support for mothers, children, and adolescents, helping families meet urgent needs while strengthening emotional resilience.



Our Appeals

Gaza, Palestine

Gaza continues to face unprecedented humanitarian conditions marked by widespread displacement, collapse of health services, food shortages, and acute vulnerability among women and children. Access to healthcare, clean water, nutrition, and income has been severely disrupted, leaving families dependent on life-saving humanitarian support wherever access is possible.

SWAN continues long-standing projects in Gaza, including:

- **Ambulance service** for emergency and chronic patients
- **Khan Younis Field Hospital** (rent, salaries, medical aid)
- **Primary Health Clinic** (maternity, neonatal, emergency care)
- **Women's Hygiene Kits** (£25 each)
- **Orphan Sponsorships** (50 children at £50/month)
- **Food, water, and vegetable hampers**
- **Monthly family grants**
- **Breastfeeding project** providing food packs for mothers and orphaned babies

Despite severe conditions, SWAN continues to deliver vital support wherever access is possible.

Through these interventions, SWAN is helping to:

- Sustain access to essential healthcare for women, children, and the injured
- Protect dignity and wellbeing through hygiene and maternal support
- Reduce hunger and nutritional risk for families facing prolonged displacement
- Provide stability and care for orphaned children amid ongoing trauma

Despite severe and constantly changing conditions, SWAN remains committed to delivering **life-saving aid, dignity, and continuity of care** to Palestinian families wherever access allows.

In 2025 our Field Hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza saw over 90,000 patients!



Case Study: Meet Amina

Amina is only five years old, yet her childhood has been marked by trauma and loss. Her father was killed in the recent war on Gaza, and their home—once a place of laughter and bedtime stories—was reduced to rubble. Since then, Amina and her mother have been seeking shelter wherever they can. For now, they are hosted by her maternal uncle in a cramped, unstable home, living in constant fear of further violence or eviction.

Amina suffers from malnutrition and developmental delays, symptoms worsened by the lack of stability and access to healthy food. Her mother, unable to provide even the basics, is desperate for a lifeline that can restore dignity and care to her daughter's early years.

Amina is now supported by SWAN's orphan sponsorship project which allows her to be fed, clothed, and have medical care. This has created hope for her and her mother and some relief in spite of the grueling condition they face.



Case Study: Meet Hayaa

My name is Hayaa Muhammad, and I am just two years old. I used to live with my parents and my older brother in a small home filled with warmth and love.

Our life was simple, yet full of affection, for my mother and father were an example of true love — a story that lasted eight years of patience and devotion, finally crowned by marriage on December 2, 2020. My brother came first, the first fruit of their love, and then I was born on August 18, 2023, the second fruit. I lived in their embrace for only one year, a year full of care and safety, until war tore everything apart. The sounds of shells and gunfire soon shook our world. My parents carried me and my brother from one place to another, trying to escape



death. Every time we thought we were safe, danger came closer.

One night, my parents decided we should stay at my grandfather's house in Jabalia, believing it would be safer. But the dawn of October 12, 2024 was different... The house was bombed with everyone inside, collapsing over the people who were asleep. Civil defense teams were called, but reaching the site was nearly impossible. After two days of painstaking search, the rescuers managed to pull me out. I survived, but I was in critical condition. I was injured in my head, and I still suffer from brain electrical imbalance as a result of my wounds. My family... they were all gone. My father, mother, and brother — all martyred that night, buried in a single grave, without me having a chance to say goodbye or place a kiss on their foreheads.

Today, I live under the care of my grandmother, who took responsibility for raising me after I lost everyone who gave meaning to my life. She feeds me, clothes me, and tries to give me safety and love, but nothing can replace the warmth of a mother's hug, the comfort of a father's hand, or the laughter of a brother.

United Kingdom

Across the UK, food insecurity and financial hardship continue to rise. Recent data shows that over **9 million people in the UK are experiencing food insecurity**¹, including families with children, people in low-paid work, and those reliant on insecure housing or benefits. Refugees, asylum seekers, and people experiencing homelessness are disproportionately affected, often facing barriers to employment, public funds, and stable accommodation. Around 14–16% of households in the UK are experiencing food insecurity – equivalent to roughly 14.1 million people including 3.8 million children in 2024².

In response to this growing need, SWAN's food bank and soup kitchens have continued to provide consistent, dignified support to some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. Our services are open to families facing sudden hardship, refugees and asylum seekers with limited or no access to public funds, and individuals experiencing homelessness or social isolation.

Our food bank and soup kitchens continue to serve diverse communities, including families in hardship, refugees, asylum seekers, and the homeless. This year, our **Community Pantry** provided over **3,000 food packs to 900 registered families**, distributing up to **60 packs per week**.

In the UK We also provided 10,270 hot meals through three weekly soup kitchens and distributed 2,530 essential supply packs.



In 2025, in the UK we have been able to issue **65 small grants (up to £250 each)** to families in emergency need, such as help with bills, debt, or essential items.



As a result of these interventions:

- Hundreds of families were able to maintain access to regular meals during periods of financial instability.
- Individuals experiencing homelessness or isolation received consistent support and signposting through our soup kitchens.
- Emergency grants helped prevent escalation into deeper crisis, reducing the risk of eviction, utility disconnection, or unmanageable debt.
- Community-led giving through SWAN500 demonstrated how small, regular donations can create rapid, meaningful impact when pooled together.

Our integrated approach—combining food provision, essential supplies, and targeted financial support—continues to provide immediate relief while helping families and individuals regain stability and dignity during extremely challenging times.

¹ <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/news/latest-food-insecurity-tracker-shows-seven-million-adults-going-hungry>

² https://cms.trussell.org.uk/sites/default/files/2025-10/hunger_in_the_UK_oct25.pdf

Afghanistan



Afghanistan continues to face one of the most severe humanitarian and economic crises in the world. Prolonged conflict, economic collapse, sanctions, and restrictions on employment have left millions without reliable access to food or income.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) reports that over **17 million people in Afghanistan are projected to be facing crisis levels of acute food insecurity**, including nearly **4 million children** at risk of severe malnutrition.³

In response to both immediate food needs and long-term economic hardship, SWAN has implemented an integrated programme combining **food production** with **livelihood creation**.

Our **bakery project** produces **3,600 loaves of bread each week**, amounting to **187,200 loaves annually**. This provides a consistent and affordable food source for vulnerable families while creating paid employment opportunities within the local community.

Economic insecurity is a critical barrier to stability. Millions of people face **unemployment and underemployment**, leaving families dependent on aid to meet basic needs. According to the **UNDP**, around **75% of the population is subsistence-insecure**,⁴ meaning they cannot reliably afford food, shelter, or essential items. Women, in particular,

experience systemic barriers to employment and income generation, which not only affects household stability but also limits community resilience. Without access to skills training or income-generating opportunities, families are forced to rely on short-term humanitarian aid, perpetuating cycles of poverty and vulnerability.

Alongside food production, SWAN delivers **vocational training programmes** that equip men and women with practical, income-generating skills. These trainings are designed to increase self-reliance, reduce dependency on emergency aid, and restore dignity through meaningful work.

We empower 120 women in Afghanistan every month to seek education!

The training is hands-on and community-centered, enabling participants to:

- Gain marketable skills that increase employability.
- Access meaningful work that restores dignity and self-confidence.
- Learn business and financial skills to start small enterprises and generate sustainable income.

This approach goes beyond emergency aid, fostering **self-reliance, economic empowerment, and long-term resilience**.

³ <https://www.wfp.org/news/latest-food-security-report-confirms-fears-deepening-hunger-crisis-afghanistan-winter-sets>

⁴ <https://www.undp.org/afghanistan/press-releases/afghanistans-fragile-economic-recovery-no-match-subsistence-shortfall-new-report-finds>

Through this approach:

- Thousands of individuals benefit from reliable access to staple food each year.
- Local men and women gain **paid employment** in a context where job opportunities are extremely scarce.
- Vocational training enables participants to develop **marketable skills**, improving their ability to support their families independently.
- Households experience increased resilience against economic shocks, helping to stabilise communities facing prolonged crisis.
- **Hundreds of participants** have gained practical skills that directly translate into **paid employment or microenterprise opportunities**.

- Families experience greater financial stability and reduced reliance on emergency food or cash assistance.
- Women’s participation in economic activities has been shown to **strengthen household wellbeing** and community resilience, breaking cycles of dependency.
- Participants report increased **confidence, independence, and social inclusion**, contributing to both personal and communal empowerment.

By combining food security with skills development, SWAN’s programme moves beyond short-term relief, addressing the root causes of hunger while empowering communities to build sustainable livelihoods in one of the world’s most challenging environments.



Pakistan



Pakistan faces deep-rooted food insecurity, malnutrition, and poverty that significantly impact children, families and women's economic participation.

According to the **Global Report on Food Crises**, an estimated **11 million people in Pakistan are facing acute food insecurity**, with many in crisis or emergency conditions.⁵ Economically, **poverty rates remain high**, with over **40 per cent of the population living below internationally recognised lower-middle-income poverty thresholds**, leaving many households struggling to afford even basic food and services. Economically, **poverty rates remain high**, with over **40 per cent of the population living below internationally recognised lower-middle-income poverty thresholds**, leaving many households struggling to afford even basic food and services.⁶

To address immediate needs and build long-term resilience in Pakistan, SWAN implements a range of **integrated programmes**:

- **Weekly Soup Kitchens:** We operate **two weekly soup kitchens**, providing regular hot meals to vulnerable individuals and families who struggle to meet daily food needs.
- **Educational Support:** Through funding and operational support, we help run a **school for 100 children**, ensuring access to safe learning environments and reducing barriers to education for children from low-income families.
- **Nutritional Support:** Recognising the importance of staple food security, we provide **2,200 kg of flour every month** to supplement diets for **1,000 students and local poor families**, helping ensure that basic nutritional needs are met.
- **Women's Economic Empowerment:** We run a **widows' sewing programme**, which combines skills training with dignity-focused support. Graduates receive **sewing machines** and business mentoring to start their own income-generating enterprises, fostering financial independence and social inclusion.

5 <https://www.dawn.com/news/191169>

6 <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40359069/poverty-rate-in-country-to-stand-at-424pc-world-bank>



As a result of these targeted efforts:

- **Regular Nutrition for Vulnerable Families:** The soup kitchens have become a reliable source of nourishment, reducing the urgency of hunger for participants and offering a safe space for community support and connection.
- **Improved Educational Access:** Children enrolled in the school benefit from a stable learning environment, helping prevent drop-out and increasing opportunities for future economic participation and resilience.
- **Strengthened Household Food Security:** Monthly flour distributions support 1,000 families and students in maintaining a basic but essential staple in their diets, easing income pressure on households struggling with rising food costs.
- **Economic Inclusion for Women:** By equipping widows with **practical business tools and vocational training**, the sewing programme has enabled many to generate sustained income, increase household stability, and break cycles of dependency.



These interventions not only meet **immediate needs**, but also contribute to **longer-term wellbeing, self-reliance and community stability** — key markers of sustainable impact in a context marked by vulnerability and inequality.

Bangladesh

With **Umme Salman Safura Begum Girls Madrasah and Orphanage**, we run a **Coding for Kids** programme empowering **Rohingya girls** with digital literacy. Ninety-five students completed 50 programming projects this year.

Bangladesh hosts nearly one million Rohingya refugees who have fled violence and persecution in Myanmar, the majority living in overcrowded camps in Cox's Bazar. Rohingya refugee girls face compounded barriers including displacement, poverty, restricted access to formal education, and severe limitations on future employment opportunities. Early marriage, gender-based violence, and social exclusion further reduce their chances of building independent and secure futures.

Education access for Rohingya girls remains critically limited. Many adolescents miss out on secondary education entirely, and opportunities to gain practical, future-oriented skills are extremely scarce. Without access to education and employable skills, girls are at heightened risk of lifelong dependency on humanitarian aid, reinforcing cycles of poverty and vulnerability across generations.

In response to these challenges, SWAN has implemented a coding and digital skills programme

specifically designed for Rohingya refugee girls. The programme provides a safe, supportive learning environment where girls can develop foundational and advanced coding skills alongside digital literacy, problem-solving, and confidence-building.

Through structured training, participants:

- Learn coding and basic software development skills aligned with global digital job markets.
- Gain digital literacy and critical thinking skills essential for modern employment pathways.
- Build confidence, leadership, and a sense of agency in a context where girls' voices are often marginalised.
- Access mentorship and peer networks that foster aspiration and long-term goal setting.

This programme addresses both immediate educational gaps and long-term economic exclusion by equipping girls with skills that can be used for remote work, further education, or future livelihoods as opportunities emerge.



In Bangladesh,
Ninety-five
students completed
50 programming
projects this
year

Through this approach with SWAN:

- Rohingya refugee girls gain access to quality, future-focused education in an otherwise resource-limited environment.
- Participants develop practical, marketable digital skills that expand their employment and income-generation prospects beyond the camps.
- Girls report increased confidence, self-esteem, and motivation to continue learning.
- Families and communities benefit from greater awareness of the value of girls' education and skills development.
- The programme helps reduce reliance on humanitarian aid by investing in long-term human capital and resilience.

By investing in coding and digital education for Rohingya refugee girls, SWAN is not only expanding access to learning but also challenging structural inequalities that limit girls' futures. This initiative moves beyond short-term relief, empowering young women with skills, confidence, and opportunities to build more secure and dignified lives despite displacement and adversity.



Malawi



This year saw 4 new Huffaaz, 7 Aalim graduates, and 15 students complete computer courses in Malawi

Malawi remains one of the world's most challenged contexts for children's wellbeing, education access, and economic opportunity. The vast majority of the population lives in poverty, with **70 per cent of children experiencing multidimensional poverty**, deprived of basic services like nutrition, education, and healthcare.⁷

In response to these profound challenges, SWAN's programmes in Malawi focus on **education, personal development, and long-term opportunity**:

- **Darul Qur'aan Madrassah Support:** We support **70 students, half of whom are orphans**, providing access to consistent education, stability, and community.
- **Academic and Life Skills Achievement:** This year's cohort celebrated **4 new Huffaaz (Qur'an memorisation graduates)**, **7 Aalim (Islamic scholarship) graduates**, and **15 students who completed computer courses**, equipping them with valuable tools for future learning and livelihood pathways.
- Our support encompasses not just academic learning but also building confidence, resilience, and belonging – critical foundations for youth in a setting where educational and economic opportunities are limited.

Through these investments in education and development:

- **Educational Continuity for Vulnerable Children:** Orphaned and vulnerable children who might otherwise face dropout are able to stay in school, reducing the risk that poverty will cut short their education.
- **New Graduates with Marketable Skills:** Students completing Qur'anic studies, advanced Islamic scholarship, and computer training gain knowledge and skills that strengthen their prospects for further study, community leadership, and future economic participation.
- **Increased Resilience and Hope:** Each graduate represents a story of hope – a young person better equipped to navigate the pressures of poverty and marginalisation with confidence, purpose, and the ability to contribute positively to their community.

By supporting education and skills development, SWAN's work in Malawi is helping break cycles of deprivation and empower young people with **hope, dignity, and tangible pathways to a brighter future** – precisely where the need is deep and opportunity scarce.

⁷ https://www.unicef.org/malawi/media/11746/file/Malawi_Annual_Report_2023_Final_Web.pdf.

Sudan

SWAN continues to support **Sudanese refugee families and orphans** displaced by the conflict, delivering food, essentials, and shelter support to those in camps and temporary housing.

SWAN has contributed to a sustainable **bread factory project** producing **1,300 packs per hour** – ensuring food security for thousands of families while maintaining a model that covers operational costs through affordable pricing.



SWAN has contributed to a sustainable bread factory project in Sudan, producing 1,300 packs per hour



Madagascar

In partnership with **Croissant d'Espoir de Madagascar**, SWAN is providing **food packs to elderly people, widows, and orphans**. Each pack includes rice, oil, flour, sugar, lentils, and household essentials – enough to sustain a family for several weeks. This collaboration marks an expansion of SWAN's reach in Africa, extending compassion and relief to overlooked communities.



Seasonal Campaigns: Ramadan and Eid

During **Ramadan 2025**, SWAN distributed more than **21,000 iftar meals** across **Gaza, Afghanistan, Yemen, Lebanon, Pakistan, Somalia, and the UK**.

In **Gaza**, 5,800 meals were served; **Pakistan** saw 6,000 beneficiaries; **Syria** and **Afghanistan** received 2,500 each; **Yemen** 2,400; **Lebanon** 2,100.

Eid celebrations reached:

- 200 children in Lebanon (Eid gift bags)
- 120 widows in Pakistan (38kg family packs)
- 63 women's shelters in the UK (support hampers)

SWAN's Ramadan work ensures food, dignity, and joy reach those who need it most.



Qurbani Distributed Across All Our Countries

Thanks to your generosity this Dhul Hijjah, we were able to fulfil every Qurbani request, delivering fresh meat to families in: **Gaza, Pakistan, South Africa and Malawi.** The meat for Gaza has a shelf life of 1.5 years so we hope that this can bring hope and nutrition over a longer period of time. Your sacrifice reached those most in need, many of whom haven't tasted meat in months.



With Gratitude and Looking Ahead

None of this work would be possible without the generosity and trust of our donors. Your support has enabled SWAN to respond to urgent humanitarian needs while investing in long-term dignity, resilience, and self-reliance across the UK and internationally.

In a year marked by complex and overlapping crises, your contributions have helped ensure that families are fed, children are educated, women are empowered, and communities receive vital care and protection. We remain committed to transparency, accountability, and delivering aid where it is needed most.

Thank you for standing with SWAN and the communities we serve.



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Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
No. 1188649. The charity is non-profit making,
and its trustees are volunteers.

