



**BRIGHTER FUTURES
FOUNDATION**



IMPACT REPORT 2023

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Brighter Futures Foundation

brighterfuturesusa.org

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A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

One of my greatest dreams growing up was to somehow be involved in the lives of those less fortunate overseas. Separated by oceans, mountains, jungles, and swathes of unpaved roads, years of failed attempts showed me that these barriers were insurmountable. I consigned myself to believe that the road to assisting them was simply impassable.

Years later, after learning she had cancer, my mother had a similar dream - leaving the world a better place. Amidst the darkness of this diagnosis, I saw a glimmer of hope in her eyes.

It was this glimmer that brought together an amazing community of donors, sharing the same dream - creating Brighter Futures for those less fortunate. Through the grace of Allah and the dynamism and resilience of that community, their generosity sprung past those barriers, transforming thousands of lives in Togo, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Zambia, Chad, The Gambia, Turkiye, and Syria. We are extremely humbled and grateful to Allah for what we have achieved and where we have reached.

The following pages are a small token of appreciation to our amazing body of donors, providing a broad overview of how they have been brightening futures over the last five years.

Yousuf Ghouse
Director, Brighter Futures Foundation



OUR MISSION

At Brighter Futures, we work with local leadership to provide education and critical resources to marginalized Muslim communities across the globe.

From purchasing land to build schools to feeding students through our Student Sponsorship Program, Brighter Futures works with local leaders to make a sizeable impact for Muslim communities by delivering resources specific to that community's needs.

OUR VISION

We envision a world where everyone with a desire for an education, be it Islamic or secular, is able to attain one, regardless of their income or geographic location – a world where communities have the prerequisite resources needed to pursue educational opportunities such as food, shelter, and clean water.

2023

MAPPING OUR IMPACT

Despite our global reach, we make sure to work hand-in-hand with local leadership to identify the unique needs and opportunities within each and every community we support.

**8**

The number of countries we've worked in this past year

\$1,400,000+

Donated to programs across all our global initiatives

BRIGHTER FUTURES

AT A GLANCE

OUR GLOBAL INITIATIVES UPLIFT UNDERSERVED MUSLIM COMMUNITIES WHERE FEW NONPROFITS OPERATE



EDUCATION

We provided maktab programs and built Madrasas teaching both Quranic and standard education. We're also running an education program at our orphanage, Noor House.

Our relief initiatives focus on distributing nutritious meals, ensuring clean water through well construction, and providing immediate assistance during disasters. Additionally, we operate hospitals to deliver quality healthcare to those most in need.

RELIEF



Our Zakat program uplifted and supported those in need in line with Islamic principles.

ZAKAT & SADAQAH



Our Qurbani program provided over 200 animals to food-insecure communities across three countries.

QURBANI



PROJECT SNAPSHOTS

Currently, Brighter Futures Foundation has projects in six countries across the globe. We understand that not every community that we serve will require the same resources or type of support.

In the following section, we'll explore the how our team has been supporting local leaders as they address specific challenges unique to their communities.

2019-2022

PROJECT TOGO

Brighter Futures started in Togo by adopting the first Quran school in the entire nation. Since then, that one school of 200 students has grown to support more than 1,000, and the curriculum has evolved from supporting the Quran memorization to adding subjects such as math, science, and French, and having a staff of 10 teachers of standard subjects.

This past year we've been able to:

- Open the regular school and Madrasah campus
- Collect over \$150,000+ in donations
- Support 13 standard-curriculum and Quran Teachers

1,300,000+

The total number of meals served to students

1100+

Students slated to attend the school in Tsevie, Togo

25

The acres of land purchased to build the new school buildings

9

Number of school buildings completed



A group of seven young boys, likely students, are posed for a photograph. They are wearing matching school uniforms consisting of bright yellow polo shirts with a small crest on the left chest, dark grey or black trousers, and black shoes. Some of the boys are also wearing blue backpacks. They are standing in front of a brick building with a large window that has a white frame and a decorative diamond pattern. The boys are arranged in two rows, with four in the front and three in the back. They all have serious or neutral expressions.

2023

NOOR HOUSE ORPHANAGE

Noor House supports 17 orphans by providing them lodging, food, school tuition, and healthcare. The orphanage offers after-school Quran classes to ensure its children secure a connection with Deen. Brighter Futures covers the orphan sponsorship and operating costs of the orphanage.

2023

TÜRKIYE EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Following the February 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye, Brighter Futures partnered with a local Turkish organization to join the immediate relief efforts.

For three months following the earthquake, Brighter Futures was involved in providing Zakat, food, shelter, and other essential supplies to those impacted by the earthquake.

\$125,855

Total donations raised for earthquake victims

\$50,950

Donated to provide food for victims

\$17,350

To provide emergency supplies post-earthquake

\$1,910

Raised to provide toys for children in Turkey & Syria



2023

THE SIERRA LEONE HOSPITAL

WE'VE COMPLETED THE FOUNDATION OF
THE FIRST PRIVATE, CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
IN THE COUNTRY



Brighter Futures is partnering with the California-based non-profit, Ihsan Foundation of West Africa, on the construction of Sierra Leone's first, private children's and maternity ward.

As part of a larger hospital projected being spearheaded by Ihsan Foundation, the children's and maternity ward will have 9 pediatric rooms and a separate maternity ward.

Construction is on-going, with the foundational work complete and structural work in progress.



THE COUNTRY'S FIRST FULL-TIME QURAN ACADEMY & GIRLS MADRASAH

2023

CHAD MADRASA

The Madrasa Imam Bukhari project in Chad is the nation's first, full-time Quran academy. With hopes of expanding into teaching the Islamic sciences as well, Brighter Futures has facilitated the completion of the campus Masjid, and is also currently working to add a dedicated school building.

We are also working on opening one of the first full time girls' madrasa in the country inshaAllah. Construction is slated to begin this month after the autumn rainy season ends, inshaAllah.

Classes have started in the masjid, and the school already has 45 full-time students and 20 adults studying part-time. As the school construction completes, we expect this number to increase inshaAllah.

2023

GLOBAL MAKTAB PROGRAMS

750+

Students served

5+

Maktabs
established

5+

Teacher salaries
supported

2023

OUR REACH

Maktab education is an essential driver in preserving the faith of youth, connecting them with the Quran and equipping them with foundational Islamic knowledge.

The Brighter Futures Global Maktab Program runs in three countries - Malawi, Sierra Leone, and The Gambia.

By the permission of Allah ﷻ, Brighter Futures has been able to renovate school buildings, cover the operating costs, and sponsor both students and teachers.

In total, there are over 750 students - both boys and girls - supported through the Global Maktab Program.

We have one Maktab program in Malawi, and two programs each in Sierra Leone and The Gambia, respectively. We reconstructed the Maktab building in Malawi, and we are working on reconstructing two Maktab buildings in The Gambia.

Students begin with learning how to read Qur'an and introductory Islamic studies, and thereafter students transition into memorizing Qur'an.

2023

DONOR DIRECTED PROGRAMS

At Brighter Futures, we want our donors to feel connected with the communities we support. That is why we strive to fulfill requests outside of our normal projects to ensure that donor impact can be utilized for the Ummah in a variety of ways.

WALIMA DINNERS

It is mentioned in a hadith, “the worst food is that of a wedding banquet to which only the rich are invited while the poor are not invited.” (Bukhari). Given this warning for the ummah and our mission to support marginalized Muslim communities, we regularly sponsor walima dinners in Togo.



AQEEQAHS

We’ve had a number of donors share the happiness of the birth of their children by providing a meal to our hifz students in Togo. In these cases, we work with our partner organization to perform the animal sacrifice, prepare a celebratory meal, and encourage the students make dua for the child.

2023

DONOR DIRECTED PROGRAMS CONT'D

SADAQAH JAARIYA PROGRAMS

We've worked with donors to arrange for those wanting to leave a lasting legacy for their loved ones who have passed on. We have worked to build wells, a water distribution facility, construct small schools, and even a hospital wing to serve as sadaqah jaariya.



SPONSORING WALIMAS

Marrying is a challenge in developing nations. A few generous donors decided to help out, arranging to sponsor the walimas of a number of couples in Togo!

QURBANI

The Brighter Futures' Qurbani Program currently operates in three countries – Togo, Malawi, and Chad. In each country, Brighter Futures works with its partners to ensure underserved communities are receiving Qurbani meat.





2019-2023

OUR WELLS INITIATIVE

Build a well; transform a community.

The Prophet ﷺ was once asked, "What type of charity is the best?" He said, "Giving water." (Sunan Abi Dawud)

The Brighter Futures Well Program currently operates in Togo, and our partners strive to build wells in underserved, remote areas that struggle with access to clean water. Each well is constructed alongside a plaque which mentions the name of the donor.

12

Wells completed

6

Wells under construction

1

Water facility to provide water to 300 people daily



\$585,000+

Total Zakat since 2019

\$93,495

Total Sadaqatul Fitr since 2019

2019-2023

OUR ZAKAT PROGRAM

The Brighter Futures' Zakāt and Ṣadaqah al-Fiṭr Program currently operates in three countries – Togo, Malawi, and Chad. To ensure the integrity of our programs and to assure its conformity to the guidelines stipulated by the Sharī'a, Brighter Futures works with local scholars who administer the distribution of the funds to rightful recipients.

The collection of funds is overseen by Shaykh Yousuf Ghouse in the United States, and its distribution is overseen by Brighter Futures' organizational partners, Shaykh Ibrahim Moufti in Togo, Shaykh Siraj Omar in Malawi, and Shaykh Al-Amin Sulaiman in Chad.

Brighter Futures and its partners ensure that the distribution of funds is used for only supporting individuals falling into the categories specified by Sharī'a, and as such, none of the funds are used for funding construction projects or meeting overhead costs. In each country, funds are distributed in the form of cash or food to qualifying individuals, ensuring that unconditional ownership (tamlīk) occurs, ensuring that 100% of donations are received by rightful recipients.

INCOME GENERATION PROGRAM

In Ramadan 2023, Brighter Futures began piloting an income-generating Zakat program with the objective of providing sustainable sources of livelihood for recipients.

In-kind donations are provided to recipients – such as a motorbike to serve as a taxi service, a storefront to serve as a convenience store, or sewing machines – which are then used to be a source of income for the recipient throughout the year. Zakat was only used from donors who specifically provided permission to put it towards this program.

Additionally, we focus on targeted distributions to vulnerable populations - widows, the ill, and those affected by natural disaster - cyclones in Malawi and the earthquake in Türkiye.



"Since the beginning of Ramadan, no one has come to this village to support us.

If we didn't have this package [of food] I wouldn't know what my family would eat during Eid."

*-Fatimah, Age 60
Sadaqahtul Fitr Recipient*

WHAT'S NEXT & HOW TO GET INVOLVED

With numerous projects completed and in progress across eight different countries, we're well on our way to having our most impactful year yet, inshallah.

Take a look at our plan for moving forward and how you can contribute to the cause.

WHAT'S NEXT?

OUR FUTURE GOALS

1 DEVELOPMENT BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

- Complete construction of Chad Madrasah
- Construction and opening of the girls Madrasah in Chad
- Complete Masjid construction in Togo
- Complete acquisition of larger facility for Zambian Orphanage

2 EDUCATION NEW INITIATIVES

- Initiate satellite Maktab programs in Togo through some of the hifz graduates
- Create an Alim program in Togo for hifz graduates
- Expand our oversight program for maktabas

3 RELIEF AMPLIFYING OUR IMPACT

- Create further income development zakat programs
- Implement data metrics to better assess efficacy of development programs



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The impact we've made to date would not be possible without the generosity of donors like you. And with several of our projects nearing completion and even more just getting started, there is no better time to support Brighter Futures as we continue to make an impact across the globe.

To support our current and future endeavors, consider the following:

1

DONATE THROUGH OUR 100% DONATION POLICY

100% of our donations go straight into the programs we support. We do not use any of our program donations for the staff or administrative costs.

2

CONNECT US WITH YOUR LOCAL MASJID

Either help arrange a collection at your masjid, or help Brighter Futures to partner with your masjid for Zakat, Sadaqatul Fitr, and other projects!

3

VOLUNTEER

In the past, our volunteers have helped with everything from administrative tasks, social media outreach, accounting, fundraising, and many other roles. Learn more at brighterfuturesusa.org/volunteer.

4

MAKE DUA

Maybe you can't donate right now. That's alright! You can always keep us in your duas and spread the word about our mission and projects to your friends and family.





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