



Shefa Fund

2020–2022 Financial and Grant Summary



Shefa Fund



A Rihla of Giving

Since its inception in 2013, the Shefa Fund has remained steadfast in its goal of improving the health, well-being, and resilience of Muslim populations across the Middle East and Africa.

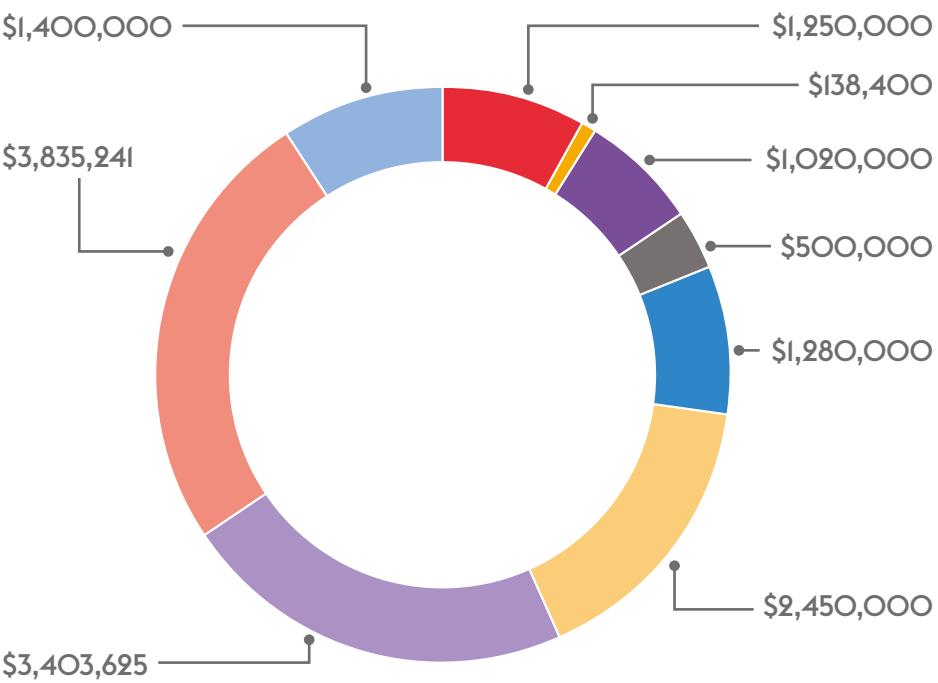
In partnership with expert grantee leaders on the ground, the Shefa Fund has helped deliver life-giving interventions that enable families and communities to thrive: such as increasing access to healthcare for women and children, preventing and treating neglected tropical diseases, and providing emergency relief for populations living through humanitarian crises—including amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, the Shefa Fund has reached more than an estimated 21 million people around the world. With support from dedicated partners like you, we are continuously inspired by the remarkable power that collaboration can yield. We thank you for your commitment to lifting up families so they can reach their fullest potential.



Collective Impact: 2013–2022

COMPLETED GRANTS TO DATE



- COVID-19 Response
- Emergency Brief
- Neglected Tropical Diseases
- Polio
- Malaria
- Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

OUR IMPACT TO DATE

\$15.3M
granted to trusted partners

18 projects
supported by the Shefa Fund

21.4M people
reached

19 countries
with Shefa-supported projects

SHEFA FUND-SUPPORTED PROJECTS BY COUNTRY

1. Afghanistan
2. Central African Republic
3. Chad
4. Egypt
5. Ethiopia
6. The Gambia
7. Iraq
8. Jordan
9. Kenya
10. Lebanon
11. Nigeria
12. Palestine
13. Saudi Arabia
14. Somalia
15. Sudan
16. Syrian Arab Republic
17. Turkey
18. Uganda
19. Yemen





Completed Grants: 2020–2022

Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Health and Nutrition

Access to healthcare is a fundamental right of women and children worldwide, no matter their means or where they live. The early detection and treatment of malnutrition, anemia, and other illnesses is crucial to reducing rates of mortality and disease, which are particularly high among communities living in higher risk settings. In Palestine, there is a maternal and child healthcare crisis, largely due to the ongoing conflict in Gaza, and further exacerbated by disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expanding access to health services saves lives and improves the trajectory of health outcomes over time, with transformational impacts across education and livelihoods in the long-term.

Save the Children:
Improving Access to Health Services in Palestine
\$780,000 | May 2020–August 2021

In response to the maternal and childhood healthcare crisis in Palestine, the Shefa Fund supported an emergency initiative formed by Save the Children. Targeting three neighborhoods in the Gaza Strip, the initiative focused on providing health, nutrition, and hygiene training for medical professionals in the region and sponsored educational programs for pregnant women and young mothers. The program additionally provided resources related to early detection and treatment for childhood diseases, follow-up appointments for young mothers, dietary counseling and education for expecting mothers, and health services for adolescents.

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1,821

sick children received quality
treatment for common
childhood illnesses

3,954

malnourished children
benefited from treatment and
case management plans

2,471

women accessed antenatal care,
child nutrition education sessions,
follow-up care, and family
planning services



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Emergency Relief

Political and economic upheaval, violence, and natural disasters destroy livelihoods, threaten access to shelter and basic necessities, and place undue strain on the physical and mental well-being of families and communities. Emergency relief is designed to alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity in the aftermath of a crisis.

Haifa’s Story -
“Life is back in our house again”

Haifa*, 39 years old, was suffering from post-partum depression after giving birth to her baby boy. Following a difficult delivery, Haifa found herself without an appetite, sleep deprived and exhausted, and she did not want to hold or breastfeed her son. Without medical support, she isolated herself from her family and friends. The psychosocial distress was compounded by the family’s difficult economic circumstances.

Through IMC community outreach activities, Haifa was encouraged to participate in a workshop on stress management. Afterwards, she met with an IMC counselor and was able to express her fears and feelings of isolation and depression.

The IMC counselor listened to her and connected her with a specialized mental health provider that could best serve her needs. Along with receiving a prescription for medication, Haifa learned relaxation and behavioral activation techniques. These tools provided her with the confidence to start caring for herself and restart her usual activities. With time, Haifa was able to navigate her post-partum depression, and play with and breastfeed her child. Her daily habits and communication with family and friends also improved. When she smiled, her husband told her that they “haven’t seen this smile in a long time. Life is back in our house again.”

*Name has been changed



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Beit El Baraka USA:
Delivering Emergency Relief in Lebanon
\$50,000 | October 2020–October 2021

In the wake of the Port of Beirut explosion, Beit El Baraka provided vital emergency assistance to Lebanese families and communities. In partnership with the Lebanese Army, Beit El Baraka restored homes destroyed in the blast and extended mental health services to individuals traumatized by the tragedy. In parallel, this grant from the Shefa Fund bolstered Beit El Baraka’s capacity to continue delivering much-needed services community members rely on amidst crippling inflation and rising unemployment: helping elderly citizens pay their utility bills, distributing groceries to needy families, and supplying underserved students with free laptops to continue their studies.

International Medical Corp:
Increasing Access to Healthcare in Palestine
\$1,020,000 | May 2020–October 2022

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Gaza’s healthcare system—already severely strained by ongoing conflict and limited resources—was further compromised in its ability to deliver much-needed primary and secondary care. In collaboration with a local NGO health provider, International Medical Corp (IMC) launched two mobile medical teams to provide basic primary healthcare services. The teams conducted field visits in ten underserved communities across the Gaza Strip, delivering nutrition counseling, maternal and prenatal care, and treatment for common communicable and non-communicable diseases. In tandem, patients experiencing symptoms of stress, depression, and anxiety were offered mental health services. Additionally, IMC provided supplies, equipment, and training to three local hospitals with an aim of increasing emergency preparedness and response capacity, and strengthening their operative and post-operative services.

UNRWA USA National Committee:
Providing Humanitarian Assistance in Gaza
\$63,400 | June 2021–June 2022

In Gaza, nearly 1.5 million Palestinians are experiencing food insecurity. With the Shefa Fund’s support, UNRWA, the largest humanitarian actor in the Gaza Strip, provided emergency food assistance to nearly 600 families in a single quarter. With 15 pick-up locations across Gaza, UNRWA distributed food parcels designed to meet baseline daily caloric needs, including wheat flour, rice, sunflower oil, sugar, whole milk, lentils, and chickpeas. Though distribution challenges arose from the ten days of attacks on Gaza in May 2021, UNRWA was still able to successfully reach families in need.

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

3

targeted facilities, serving more than 123,000 people on average per year, were equipped with essential medicines, PPE, and other medical supplies

91

health workers were trained on emergency preparedness

8,318

beneficiaries received primary healthcare consultations from mobile medical teams

8,818

unique beneficiaries were given mental health support

2,959

food parcels were distributed in one quarter alone

591

households met their basic caloric and nutritional needs

50%+

of beneficiaries were children

COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic brought the world to a standstill. More starkly, it highlighted the global inequalities that put vulnerable populations at the highest risk in the wake of disasters, like a pandemic. This was particularly true for families living in under-resourced environments or areas of conflict, and communities reliant on humanitarian aid provision by governments and NGOs. These situations were further complicated by border closures, national lockdowns, and disruptions to essential services.

The Shefa Fund invested in two different but equally important interventions aimed at reaching and serving communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Amref Health Africa, in Partnership with
Gates Philanthropy Partners:
Expanding Financial Resilience in Kenya
\$350,000 | October 2020–July 2021

In partnership with Gates Philanthropy Partners, the Shefa Fund contributed to an investment topping \$800,000 to Amref. Amref supported the Kenyan government with its efforts to expand universal healthcare in the face of economic disruptions caused by COVID-19. In partnership with community health volunteers (CHVs), Amref used a mapping tool to identify low-income families eligible for care coverage with a particular focus on female-led households. To sustain the program, Amref trained CHVs to continue the mapping program and equipped them with smartphones to collect and manage data efficiently. Through these efforts, Amref empowered county and other regional agencies to assume greater control over healthcare decisions.

Oxfam America:
Providing Humanitarian Relief Amidst COVID-19 in Yemen
\$900,000 | September 2020–December 2021

In partnership with other donors, the Shefa Fund contributed to a project totaling \$3 million led by Oxfam. The project provided humanitarian relief to populations devastated by the ongoing civil war in Yemen and further impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative focused on increasing public awareness about COVID-19 while facilitating access to healthcare services in partnership with community volunteers. This included increasing access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities in areas hardest hit by the conflict. With Shefa Fund support, Oxfam was able to overcome project setbacks that included the spread of misinformation and denial of COVID-19 as a public health crisis by local officials.

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS*

6,396
community health volunteers
were trained

425,089
households mapped across six counties

150,000
households with most
urgent need for financial
assistance identified

* Impact figures reflect total
\$800,000 grant amount

39,687
people accessed handwashing
facilities and clean water supply

125,120
people received key messaging
on COVID-19 risk mitigation
and water, sanitation, and
hygiene practices

70,000
people received hygiene kits

The Shefa Fund is supporting four additional projects which are currently in progress.

UNHCR:
Increasing Access to Maternal Health in Jordan
\$700,000 | September 2022

Jordan has one of the highest concentrations of refugees in the world, relative to its own population. About 85% of the refugee community lives below the Jordanian poverty line and is unable to afford basic health care, including maternal and neonatal care.

The UNHCR, a United Nations Agency, is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights, and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people. The Shefa Fund provides ongoing support to UNHCR’s maternal health initiative in Jordan ensuring refugees, mainly from Syria, receive affordable maternal care, including access to high-quality pre- and post-natal care.

Reaching the Last Mile, in Partnership with the END Fund: Preventing and Eliminating Neglected Tropical Diseases in Yemen
\$525,000 | September 2022

Amid Yemen’s ongoing humanitarian crisis, vulnerable communities have been suffering from the devastating effects of onchocerciasis, commonly known as “river blindness.” River blindness, a neglected tropical disease (NTD), is a parasitic infection transmitted through bites from infected black flies that cause severe discomfort and can lead to blindness.

Led by President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, and in partnership with the END Fund, this investment will provide critical treatment to those affected by this highly preventable disease, and implement complementary mapping and training activities that are key to reaching elimination.

International Medical Corp:
Expanding Access to Healthcare in Palestine
650,000 | October 2022

More than 1.5 million people are affected by a growing gap in access to primary healthcare and protection services in Palestine amidst the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

With the support of the Shefa Fund, IMC has most recently partnered with a local and trusted NGO, Caritas Jerusalem, to operate a mobile medical team that provides basic primary healthcare services to underserved communities. Through this ongoing partnership, the medical team will be able to extend their service offerings to include protection awareness activities for women and children, referrals for mental healthcare, and an increase in local hospital capacity to subsidize surgical costs for patients on the growing waiting list. These services will provide care for more than 4,000 individuals across the Gaza Strip.

Save the Children:
Providing Emergency Assistance to Communities Devastated by Flooding in Pakistan
\$50,000 | October 2022

Save the Children is one of the leading charities for children in Pakistan, protecting child rights and leading development and humanitarian response programs. Due to their long-standing presence in the region and existing partnerships with country government, the Shefa Fund is investing in Save the Children to actively respond to the flooding in Pakistan, which has affected over 33 million people, left over a third of Pakistan underwater, and killed more than 1,000 people in 110 districts.

Save the Children immediately deployed teams to some of the hardest-hit areas to assess the immediate needs of children and families, delivering food, hygiene packs, and health essentials. Save the Children is also providing emergency shelter and relief tents, and temporary learning centers to ensure children can have a safe place to continue learning through the crisis.

Looking Forward Together

Amidst a climate emergency and global humanitarian crises, a pandemic and mass migration, we are witnessing the myriad ways in which rising global inequality disproportionately impacts vulnerable communities around the world.

Partnership is essential to addressing issues of this scale. When we bolster nonprofit partners, we are lifting leaders on the frontlines—those ready to adapt to meet the needs of communities and bring effective, enduring change.

The Shefa Fund embodies the trust, resilience, and collaborative spirit needed to tackle some of the world's most challenging problems. Now more than ever, we are reminded of these values as we continue on the journey ahead. Thank you for your unshakable commitment and remarkable generosity.





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