



Child Support Update 2017

Thanks, you've been amazing



You've helped us change the lives of hundreds of children in **Africa**

Together, we've reached:

The Gambia: **48** children

Sierra Leone: **284** children

Somalia: **77** children

South Africa: **209** children

Sudan: **57** children



Our Rainbow Family Community

The Gambia

The Gambia struggles with crippling poverty, with a third of the population living below the international poverty line.

Many families struggle to send their children to school as they cannot afford to cover costs of uniforms, books and travel to school.

Through support from The Rainbow Family Programme, children in The Gambia are able to access school with ease and complete their studies.

Mentors in the country have played a vital role in ensuring children are attending school, as well as monitoring their educational progress and providing emotional support to help achieve their full potential.

Sierra Leone

At the end of the civil war in Sierra Leone, over 60% of school aged children were out of school. Even today, children are more likely to be found selling items on the streets than learning in a classroom.

With the help of Rainbow Family Programme, children have been taken off the streets and supported to attend and stay in school. The programme has also been able to assist their families with food and healthcare.

This year, the team in Sierra Leone organised booster classes for supported children needing extra assistance with homework. Teachers and university students from the community volunteered to run the sessions during the school holidays. This initiative proved extremely successful and helped children to catch up on all their school work before the new term started.





Only
30%
of primary-
school-aged
children in
Somalia are
in school.

Somalia

Muslim Aid assists children living in some of the neediest communities in Somalia. Many have lost their parents as a result of the ongoing war and are living in extremely challenging conditions.

Due to their poor economic situation, they are unable to afford basic school items such as school bags and stationary. Many children have had to use plastic bags, as they have not been able to afford a school bag.

The Rainbow Family Programme overcame this challenge by distributing new school bags and stationary to supported children. The school packs included a school bag, pens, pencils, a compass and books. Providing these items meant that children were better prepared for the new school year and no longer had to worry about losing or damaging their books.

South Africa

South Africa is home to thousands of refugees who have fled conflict from countries such as Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi.

The refugee community find themselves in extremely vulnerable and difficult situations; ranging from obtaining an education, to housing and finding employment. The Rainbow Family Programme is providing children and families with much needed support both financially and emotionally.

Keeping children safe is of paramount importance within the programme. Staff in South Africa participated in a number of child protection seminars, as well as build links with organisations that work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Being equipped with the relevant knowledge and understanding of child protection allows the team to create a safe environment for children.





Sudan

Sudan has experienced decades of war, rising inflation and political unrest. This has led to half of the population living in extreme poverty, with almost 50% of children not enrolled in school.

Two civil wars have had a major impact on the education, health and well-being of children.

Before support from Muslim Aid, families barely managed to have one meal per day. With little to eat, children were becoming weak and too tired to concentrate in class.

Support through the Rainbow Family Programme has made a clear impact on the health and education of children. Medical costs are covered and children are well enough to attend school regularly.

All children have great ambitions and dreams of becoming doctors and teachers who will make a real difference to their communities and country in the future.



Meet Abdullah from South Africa

I graduated from University with a degree in Rural Development and have years of experience in the charity sector.

The organisation I work for was formed in 1997, at a time when there was a large influx of refugees arriving from conflict countries in Africa such as Rwanda and Congo. The refugees found that there was little or no support for them and life was tough in their new surroundings. We started by distributing essential items such as food and clothing and in recent years have begun implementing development programmes including providing children with access to education, emotional and social support for families suffering from trauma and also support efforts to counter xenophobia in South Africa.

I have witnessed many challenges in children's education & socio-economic issues. I used to have parents approach me to help pay for their children's school fees and the child support programme came as a relief at the right time. Since then, I have committed myself entirely to transform the lives of hundreds of children who were once losing hope.

Many children had hoped to go to school but lost years of schooling due to war in their home countries and the high level of poverty they faced in South Africa. My greatest motivation is knowing that I can play a part in providing them with access to school and help equip them with the skills needed to build a better future for themselves and their families.

The highlight of working for the Rainbow Family Programme is seeing that children who have successfully graduated from the Rainbow Family Programme, are now role models in their communities and a number of them are in higher education or employment.

Abdullah, Rainbow Family Co-ordinator, South Africa.





muslimaid.org/rainbowfamily 

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Child
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Programme

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Serving Humanity