



# Contents page

Chairman's Message	4
Charity Right's Achievements and Performance in 2019	5
Sustainable Development Goals	6
Tracking BMI	7
Sudan - Kassala City	8
Thar Desert, Pakistan	12
School meals in the Thar Desert	14
Bangladesh, Dhaka	16
School Meals	18
Cox Bazar (Rohingya Refugees)	19
School meals & Family packs	20
Uyghur Muslims in Turkey	22
Charity Right in Istanbul	24
Challenges we faced in 2019	27
Key aspirations for 2020	28

## Chairman's Message

As 2019 drew to a close it was an emotional end. I just returned from our latest launch, serving the Uighur refugees in Istanbul. Mixed emotions are always at the heart of such a visit. You are overwhelmed by learning of the stories of pain, suffering and sacrifice that refugee lives are too often made up of, yet at the same time you are pleased to say the least that you can help make life easier for them. You, our donors are at the very centre of so many prayers of the vulnerable and oppressed it is always a pleasure to deploy the funds that you trust Charity Right with, and go and make a difference.

2019 was a busy year with growth across all our sites. We have been eager to ensure that we maintain all our commitments, and as such have steadied expansion into new cities in the countries we are serving in, to ensure all existing commitments are honoured first. Unfortunately, far too many organisations take a short-term approach leaving countless people more vulnerable than when any assistance came. We have a commitment to all our partners to continue with them once we start, building capacity and better operational management along the journey.

One of the new initiatives we have taken in 2019 is to really align much closer with the UN SDGs. This is to not only aid the strategic direction of our interventions, but also to enable more and more partnership working with others who are prioritising SDGs. You can see in the report how so many of our works are adding direct value, and we hope over the next ten years we can build a closer alignment enabling better measurement and impact evaluation.

It is with great pleasure I would like to announce the appointment of two super talented advisors to the board of trustees. These individuals I am sure will make an exponential improvement in our operations and message syndication.

Firstly, we appointed Rahma Javed, Director of Engineering at Deliveroo. Rahma has a strong technology background and is joining as a Special Advisor on Technology and Digitisation.

And furthermore, we appointed Abror Hadi, as Special Advisor on Creative Direction. Abror runs a successful design and digital agency, We-Convey, and brings a wealth of experience in serving clients from across the third sector.

We welcome the two to the Charity Right family, and we are sure you will notice the impact of their engagement over the next 12-24 months. We understand these will be challenging times as a post Covid-19 world becomes a reality. We have tried our best to ensure food reaches our beneficiaries in a safe manner. It is difficult in so many places, and we urgently need our donors to extend their beneficent hand once again to serve the virus victims and their families.

We pray for your safety and security, and ask Allah, The Most Merciful, to bless you and your families in these most challenging times.



**Azim Kidwai**  
Chair of the Board of Trustees

## Charity Right's Achievements and Performance in 2019

Charity Right's work is focused around three programmatic areas: **education, tackling hunger and working with neglected communities.**

Our teams work in alignment with these themes to support long term solutions. **In addition, we continually strive to improve our impact and effectiveness across the board.**



### Towards Education

"Over half our meals are distributed to schoolchildren in places of education. When schools can offer regular meals, children are less likely to work, and more likely to go to school."

### Regular Meals

"We know that hunger can only be tackled effectively with long term solutions. That's why all our programmes provide food regularly either every school day, every week, or every month"

### Neglected Communities

"We ensure regular food is made available to schools and families from some of the world's most vulnerable, forgotten, and isolated communities"



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The nature of our work – fighting hunger - does not easily lend itself to measurable outcomes. Yet the significant impact of feeding children so they are better able to get an education is unquestionable and clear from the illustrations given below. The summary of our work in 2019 in this report will show the reader how successful Charity Right has been in reducing hunger in schools, improving school attendance and the increase in the number of children reporting a positive change in their lives, since receiving a school meal each day.



## Tracking BMI

At Charity Right we record and regularly monitor and evaluate the BMI of all new students in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sudan; in order to monitor and evaluate the difference that our meal provision is making to a child's growth pattern. **Almost all new students are underweight.**

### What Is BMI?

Body mass index (BMI) is a calculation that uses height and weight to estimate how much body fat someone has. Although not a perfect measure of body fat, BMI helps identify children who are gaining weight too slowly or too quickly.

### What Do the Figures Mean?

BMI percentiles show how a child's measurements compare with others the same gender and age. For example, if a child has a BMI in the 60th percentile, 60% of the kids of the same gender and age who were measured had a lower BMI.

### The categories that describe a person's weight are:

- **Underweight:** BMI is below the 5th percentile age, gender, and height.
- **Healthy weight:** BMI is equal to or greater than the 5th percentile and less than the 85th percentile for age, gender, and height.
- **Overweight:** BMI is at or above the 85th percentile but less than the 95th percentile for age, gender, and height.
- **Obese:** BMI is at or above the 95th percentile for age, gender, and height.



A recent comparable completed by our Bangladesh team of the children Charity Right supports in Dhaka slums, to other children in the slums showed a 60% difference in BMI measurements.

The meal provided in our schools, not only meets the immediate needs of the hungry child, but it attracts children to the classroom where they can gain an all-important education. And we firmly believe that the children who are receiving Charity Right meals today can grow up – better nourished and better educated – to become the men and women who will lift their communities out of poverty and end their reliance on aid.

Over the course of the year, our work - with our partner organisations, reached almost 19,754 people: 2,129 in Bangladesh. 1,800 in Pakistan. 14,825 in Sudan and 1000 in Turkey.



## Sudan – Kassala City



### Sudan is considered one of the poorest countries in the world.

More than two thirds of the population live below the poverty line. In the east of the country, over 500,000 Eritrean refugees have lived in exile for decades, and are unable to go back due to the on-going political conflict in their home country.

The long term political and economic sanctions, South Sudan separation in 2011, the ongoing war in the new republic of South Sudan and the extended drought season are major contributing factors of the continuing worsening humanitarian situation.

Life is not easy: the majority of refugees face high levels of poverty, higher education and work opportunities are limited. The majority of these refugees live in conditions that the UN once described as “intolerable.”

### Key facts:

- We continue **working in partnership** with the Commission for Refugees (COR) and the Welfare and Development Charity Organization (WeDCO) in Kassala City.
- At the beginning of the project there were **11,650 students enrolled**
- By the end of 2019, **enrollment rate had increased by 5.45%**
- A total of **30 schools** are receiving meals from our food programme.
- **12,285 children** received a **daily meal at school**.
- **254,425 school meals provided** in 2019
- Almost **892** of these children are Hifz students **memorising the Quran**, and many of them are orphans. Since these institutions tend to be boarding schools, the children here receive **3 daily meals every single day.** \*\*
- We delivered **food packs to 508 families** that are living in refugee camps, giving them much needed food security, that’s a total of **2,540 family members** were provided with 3 meals a day.
- The number of school absences and drop out rate has decreased significantly. 95% of children said that they attend school more because of Charity Right’s meals.
- 99% of families and students reported an increase in their health according to BMI checks and interviews conducted.

○  
Kassala

# Charity Right in Sudan



## Case Study

### Ragda Abdallah

16 year old girl

The Al-mustagbal boarding school in Kassala, is a partner school targeted to improve the nutrition, health, and physical and mental development of migrant girls in the refugee camps who hope to go to secondary school.

One of the children benefiting from this project is Ragda. *“I lived in the KL26 camp with my father and 11 siblings. A lot of girls in my village stop their education after basic school. My situation wasn’t going to be all that different, because there is no secondary school in the camp”.*

In the years of basic school Ragda found herself dropping out. This was because her journey to basic school was arduous. *“I had to cross the muddy pathways and then had to collect wood for cooking meals at home. I hardly found time to study and my family could not afford to prepare lunch for me”.*

Despite their circumstances and the limited opportunities available to her, Ragda has been able to attend a boarding school for migrant children in Amostagbal, giving her a chance at a brighter future.

*“I eat three meals a day, donated by Charity Right. The meals the school provides help me stay healthy, maintain focus in the classroom and give me the energy to live a happy and active life”.*

As well as providing Ragda with the extra nutrition she needs, her family are not worried about sending money for food. Ragda is more hopeful for the future, *“I will carry on studying hard to join university one day and be able to help my family”.*





○ Thar Desert

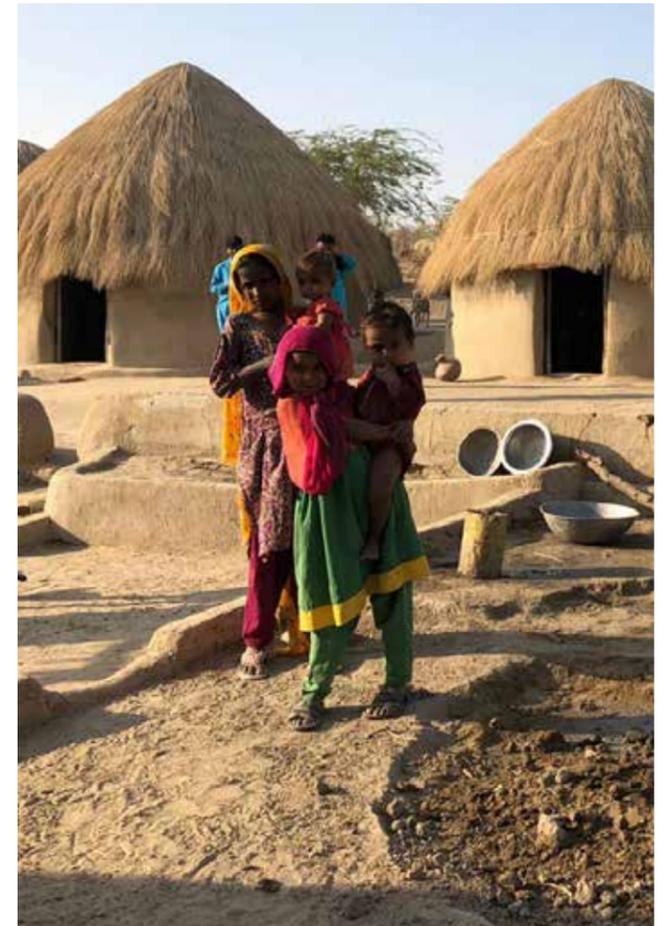
## Charity Right in Pakistan

## Thar Desert, Pakistan

**The Thar Desert in east Pakistan is home to 1.5 million people across 2,300 villages living below the poverty line.**

The Sindh government has declared it a drought hit area. The drought has lasted more than four years. The crisis is wreaking havoc on the very poor, who are suffering from malnutrition, with an increasing number of young children reported to have died during the drought. Most people find this a challenge which is difficult to overcome.

Before the launch of our project in Thar, most families were not sending their children to school. There are schools which are available, but the attendance at Thar schools is consistently inadequate because of the children's need to earn money to have food on the family's table at night. Now the same families want their child(ren) to attend school daily. Consequently the ratio of absenteeism in schools has greatly decreased. Furthermore our project in Thar is not just playing its role in getting children to school but it is also improving children's health and cognitive development. Children's health has improved because they are eating regular meals and their bodies are getting proper nutrients.



### Key facts:

- School enrollment growth is a major accomplishment. The project started in 2017 with a baseline of 664 children.
- **At the beginning of 2019 there were 1,501** students enrolled in our programme. **By the end of 2019 there were a total of 1823 school children**, showing a 25% increase in children attending school.
- We work with **10 partner schools** in the region
- Children's interviews indicate that 100% of children at school have developed a **joy of learning** and look forward to each day with immense enthusiasm

# School meals in the Thar Desert

**Because of the drought, families are in constant migration in search of food.**

For the minority that could afford to send their children to school, moving meant children never had the chance to complete their studies. By supporting schools, we can guarantee schoolchildren a daily meal so families can settle in one place.

The components of the meals are carefully considered to reflect different regions, local traditions and food prices. This integrated approach focuses on maximizing nutritional value and helps children focus better at school.

## Key facts:

- In 2019 Charity Right distributed **383,694 freshly cooked, hot school meals**
- Interviews with families have shown that the school feeding programme has provided an incentive and **more energy for children**. Children noted that they would not make it to class before and often wander aimlessly, with no goals and purpose in life.
- In 2019, we started to conduct **BMI checks** to monitor the progress of each student's health.
- Children are **excited to go to school** and mention favourite subjects such as Sindhi and Urdu, inspiring siblings to enrol as well.
- Children are excited that they can **focus on the teacher** instead of being distracted by their grumbling stomachs.



# Case Studies

## Shaukat

- 11 year old boy

Shaukat, 11, has lived in the village of Padhro Soomra in the Thar Desert for generations with his family. They feel an affinity towards the land and continue to live here despite the drought. *"I saw three of my brothers studying here and I was encouraged to come too"*.

His eldest brother was forced to leave their ancestral home to work in Baluchistan as a security guard and is now the breadwinner of the family. *"My family was conflicted to allow me to go to school as I would not be available to help fetch water from far off wells". But when I told them that I would receive a daily meal they agreed for me to go join my other brothers"*.

Shaukat believes that without the food programme at school he wouldn't perform as well. *"When I'm hungry I wander paths aimlessly, with no goals and purpose in life. I wouldn't make it to class. I didn't have confidence"*.

The promise of a daily meal really increases school enrolment numbers and improves attendance. It allows children to concentrate better, increases support for children to attend school rather than contributing to farm or house work, and crucially, makes children happier.



## Asma

## Muhammad Saleem

- 6 year old girl

Asma's family has been surviving on the kindness of the neighbours. *"There was so much pressure because my father is unemployed and my mother has to manage the home. My father had a mental breakdown leaving him unable to work"*.

Her family has lived in this area for generations. They are dependent on handouts and scraps from neighbours. Asma wishes to live a simple life but feels dispirited. *"I don't ask my parents for new clothes on Eid or a full plate of food because I know they are in no position to"*. They, just like her, are barely surviving. Still, she wishes to have things of her very own.

*"After speaking to other village children, they suggested they join school", and she did. Studying in Malihar has made a huge difference in my life as I began to receive milk and dates and as much roti and rice as I wanted"*.

Charity Right's school lunch was the first time Asma was able to eat to her heart's content without worrying about how much food there was. Now, she received regular nutritious meals every day at school and attends classes regularly too. The project has helped Asma develop a joy of learning and the promise of a full meal has propelled her family to send her happily to school.

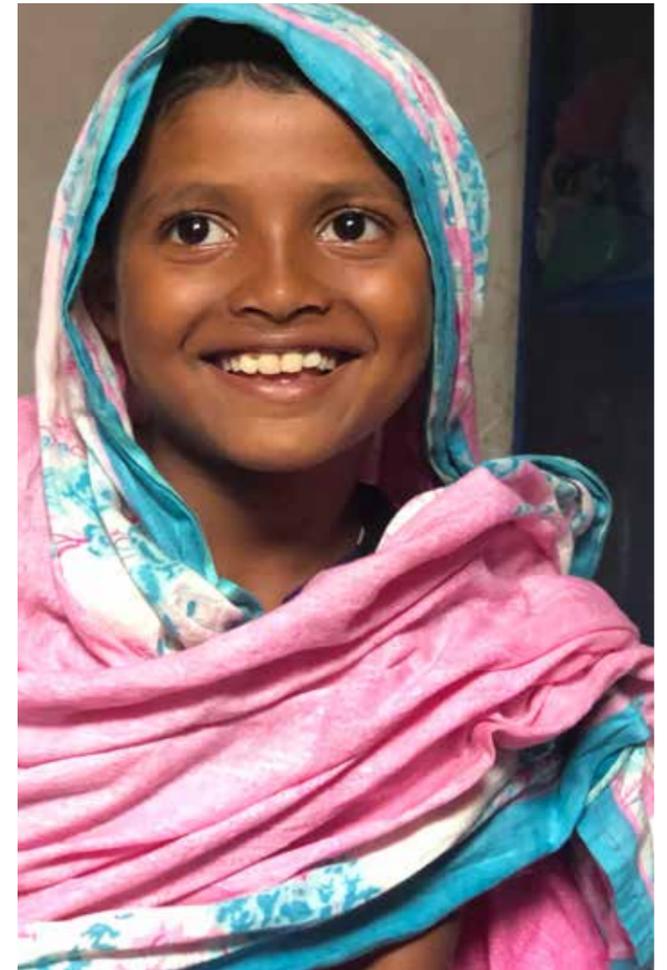


## Bangladesh, Dhaka

The most common reasons children encounter for their absence at school were hunger, helping their families with chores, losing concentration and working for money.

In the slums of Dhaka, children are forced into work so they can earn money for food. This results in high levels of children out of school and dropping-out altogether. Most of the work involves heavy manual work in landfills picking rubbish, other times they work as window washers or street vendors.

Charity Right's school feeding programme in Bangladesh has enabled access to education for countless children; who now have the chance to break the cycle of poverty. Children regularly attend school and have a least a meal a day; which has significantly improved health and performance at school.



Dhaka

Cox's Bazar

# Charity Right in Bangladesh



### What have we achieved so far?

- We have supported and partnered with **27 schools**
- At the end of 2019 there were **894 students** enrolled in our partner schools
- 99.2% of children said having Charity Right's meals made them less worried and anxious.
- When talking about their future, children across our partner schools talked about their desire to continue studying and having professions in the future like becoming a doctor.

# School meals

**33% of all children under five suffer from malnutrition.** Stunting affects half of children this age (caused by a lack of nutrients, protein, vitamins and minerals found in meat, fruit and vegetables).

Even though there has been a reduction in the level of malnutrition at a national level, stunting remains unacceptably high in the slums, where jobs and nutritious food is hard to come by.



- We served **3,785,675 meals** in partner schools during 2019. We focused on providing food from three main food groups: carbohydrates, protein, and minerals - specifically calcium. Each meal we served comes with one item from each group.
- Children's BMI's measurements throughout the year suggest **their health is improving**. Pupils express that they regularly felt hungry at school, but now rarely felt hungry, distracted, dizzy or weak.
- Interviews with children and their families continually show immense gratitude towards the support Charity Right provides, and a **shift in attitude for children to attend school is evident**, particularly because they have one mouth less to feed.
- The school environment helped the **children's mental health**, especially the confidence of those who had been involved in accidents (such as major skins burns, road accidents resulting in missing limbs).

# Cox Bazar (Rohingya Refugees)

In response to the flight of Rohingya refugees, Bangladesh opened its borders and has been providing them with refuge from grave abuses since 2017. The number of Rohingya refugees in the Cox Bazar has risen to 910,600. **50% of the refugees are children.**

For over 30 years the Bangladesh government prevented nearly 400,000 school-age Rohingya children from accessing a full curriculum. However, at the end of 2019, the government of Bangladesh announced a positive step to ensure access to learning for Rohingya children declaring full access to the Myanmar school curriculum. It shows a glimmer of hope for the Rohingya children, who have faced the most unfathomable of injustices in Myanmar.



## Our Work

- At the beginning of 2019 there were **1,019 pupils enrolled**. The year ended with the same amount of students enrolled in our programme.
- We have supported and partnered with **8 schools and 1 girls orphanage**.
- 3 of our partner schools are Madrasah schools, providing one vegetarian school meal, 365 days a year to 275 students.
- Expression that the Charity Right food programme is something that improves how **children feel happy** at school, was reiterated throughout interviews with children and their families.
- The parents of the students are grateful that their children are receiving an education and mental support to **overcome the trauma** that they went through.

# School meals & Family packs

During 2019, Charity Right and our in-country partners worked to tackle the situation of **extreme hunger and malnutrition** in the Rohingya refugee camps.

## Key facts:

- Aligned to the UN sustainable development goals for health and education and reducing hunger, we have established a school feeding programme which is exclusively for the Rohingya community of Cox's Bazar.
- We provided **371,875 school meals** which will lead to fundamental changes in preventing children going without food for a whole day.
- We distributed **72 monthly family packs** which provide **3 meals a day** to 216 of the most vulnerable families.
- **Anxiety due to hunger** has decreased for the children in our supported schools and the majority feel that Charity Right has really made a difference to their lives.
- We Screened children for malnutrition each month and monitored BMI levels.



## Case Studies

### Omar

Rohingya  
Refugee in  
Cox's Bazar



Omar had a happy life until his father died in 2011 in a car accident leaving Omar and his family particularly vulnerable. *“After my father’s sudden death, my mother was pushed to the edge with the thoughts of how she would manage provision for us. My mother did not know what to do and we were sent to a madrassa”.*

With the help of Charity Right, their life took a better turn as they do not have to worry about regular meals. Omar attends the madrassa in Ramu, allowing him to learn and play and receive food and emotional support.

*“I feel a bit less worried and I fall less sick now”.* His BMI index has improved and he, along with his four siblings receive a meal every single day. “We need Charity Right to survive but God willing, we hope to be self-sufficient in the future. We are blessed to be part of this food programme. My mother doesn’t have to worry about feeding us anymore

### Mohammad Yaqoob, 65

– Rohingya Refugee in Cox's Bazar

Mohammad Yaqoob, 65, lived in a village in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Yaqoob was a family person. He had a wife and a son who was married and had a young grandchild. The family lived happily in their village until the day their village was set on fire. The attack apparently took place without any warning.

*“It happened so quickly,”* he remembers. His wife was killed, and he had to flee for his life with his son, his grandchild and daughter-in-law. They reached Bangladesh alive and are now living in the sprawling refugee camp in Cox's Bazar. This is their temporary home for the unforeseeable future and their biggest struggle is the lack of food and lack of economic opportunities.

*“I was disheartened by the fact that he had to see something so terrible at such an old age”* Yaqoob says. But the relief at being alive and relatively safe, overpowers any other emotion. His hope in humanity has been restored because Charity Right has given him hope to fight for his life and a better future. “Thanks to Charity Right, I still have faith in God. I believe everything will get better one day for all even if I’m not here to witness it”



# Uyghur Muslims in Turkey

**FORBIDDEN TO BE MUSLIM**

In November 2019 Charity Right launched the **Forbidden to be Muslim** campaign.

The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness of the **ongoing persecution of over 1 million Uyghurs living in China** who have been subject to arbitrary arrests, confinement to camps, increased surveillance, and laws that ban religious items such as the Qur'an and Hijab.

Uyghurs are victims of severe human rights abuses and violations. Having fled a worsening

crackdown on Uyghur Muslims thousands of Uyghur muslims migrated to Turkey and sought asylum there. Subsequently, some head of families thought it was still safe to return occasionally for work and to visit family, only to disappear into a shadowy network of re-education camps from which no communication is permitted. Consequently, hundreds of children have lost one parent to the camps, several have lost both parents.



Charity Right in **Turkey**



# Charity Right in Istanbul

In conjunction with our campaign to raise awareness of the overall situation, we also launched a campaign to provide **food packs to Uyghur women** who – because their partners are imprisoned or feared dead – are either widows or single parents struggling to make ends meet.

There are currently an estimated 50,000 Uyghurs in Turkey; many of whom are unskilled women who are struggling to financially support themselves and their children. They have no income and very little savings. They are relying upon handouts to meet day to day needs and struggling to sustain both rent and living costs. We believe that sharing the burden of food costs will provide some financial ease for our beneficiaries and contribute to stability and better prospects.

We have gathered preliminary studies that indicate 400 families (**1,600 beneficiaries**) need our support, who we envisage reaching and providing food support with our monthly food packs in 2020



## Our two key objectives for our work in Turkey:

- **Poverty alleviation** - provision of monthly food packs to our beneficiary group.
- **Empowerment** - beneficiary access to vocational or language classes. We will be working to have 1 in 3 beneficiaries successfully enrolled and actively **improve their vocational/language skills.**

We carried out the project pilot in October 2019 and provided **100 food packs to families. Each family has approximately 4 members in each family.**

By the end of 2020 we envisage that we will **successfully provide in excess of 500,000 meals and facilitate the empowerment of some of our beneficiaries.**





Charity Right

# Challenges & Aspirations

## Challenges we faced in 2019

During 2019, Charity Right continued to fund food programmes in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sudan despite a number of challenges, which are likely to have influenced the amount of people we are able to reach.

Firstly, **Bangladesh** was devastated by **floods and landslides**, triggered by the beginning of monsoon. We took some of our supporters out to Bangladesh to see the projects Charity Right are running for the families and school children there. The full effects of these devastating floods were particularly visible to Rohingya refugees who live in makeshift homes built on sand. The camps are quite distant from each other and it becomes difficult to visit them. The poor weather made the roads worse. The whole camp is quite crammed so delivering food in an orderly way becomes a struggle.

**Delivery issues in Pakistan** are caused by a lack of quality roads for our team travelling to Islamkot every month. Tharparkar district with an area of 19,638 sq. kms, only has 743 kms of quality roads however they are still considered inadequate to travel on. Charity Right team on the ground cover more than half of the distance off road, taking an average of 2:30 hours to reach schools and the same on the way back. We are unable to reach our team when they go on these journeys to Islamkot as there are no mobile signals in this village.

What's more, a lack of coordination at government level meant that government-sanctioned aid didn't reach those who needed it most. **Temperatures** in the Thar Desert exceed 50 C in the summer months. It is simply too hot and is one of the harshest environments in the world. **Despite these hardships and difficulties, our teams managed to visit the region in these months to deliver food and children in the programme schools received Charity Right meals on 100% of planned days.** Without help, people will continue to die of starvation.

The civil unrest and the political situation is fast changing in **Sudan**, with **food prices significantly increasing.** This impacted negatively on an already-troubled economy, and exchange rates and commodity prices fluctuated considerably throughout the period, providing an unstable income base for the majority of the families within the programme. Our lines of communication with our project heads remained open, making sure the funds and the support for our beneficiaries were received in a timely manner.

# Key aspirations for 2020

**Without a doubt, the most important aspiration for 2020 will be to keep intact the faith of the beneficiaries on Charity Right.**

To be able to continue to support our partner schools and maintain their smiles when pupils receive school meals and family support. However, keeping our core values intact, our desire to diversify our work beyond meals provision remains high.

Whilst observing the beneficiaries and interviewing families it has become clear to Charity Right that there are areas of need that are beyond the support of food we provide. For example, the most common reasons for children dropping out of school found in our preliminary studies were poverty and hunger, **lack of clothes, lack of school materials**, needing to work for money to support the household, needing to help at home with housework or younger siblings, lack of parental encouragement or support for education and distance to school. We have found that lack of clothing is a particular issue. Children often drop out when they have been consistently missing school because they have no clothes for winter.

Furthermore, in the programme impact reports from our partners, several areas have mentioned that the increase in enrolment was putting pressure on other resources at the school, mainly **space in classrooms** and other school materials such as notebooks and pencils.

Classrooms are not enough now. More space is needed.

## **Libraries and Rewards**

In Pakistan we plan to implement “Read to build Pakistan” to all our schools in Tharparkar. In this project we wish to **build libraries** in our schools and give a bicycle to the highest reader of the school. we plan to enter into strategic partnerships with private sector organisations which can help us increase our outreach to other schools as well as expanding towards other regions. we plan to set up a sustainable model by setting up a marketplace where women can sell their handicrafts and bedwear gear.



# Annual Report 2019

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