

S.A.H.A.B.A.T

REFUGEE PROJECT BY MSRI

ORGANISATION PROFILE



Artwork by Sahar, aged 12, a refugee from Afghanistan. She is a student under the Sahabat Education Programme.

SOWING SEEDS OF RESILIENCE



Malaysian Social Research Institute (657776-U)
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HISTORY



In Loving Memory: The late Dato' Dr Alijah Gordon passed away due to pneumonia in 2003 at age 74.

Malaysian Social Research Institute (MSRI), formerly known as Malaysian Sociological Research Institute, was inaugurated on 24 November 1959.

The main purpose of the Institute was to publish and promote Malaysian culture and assist Malaysian authors who were at the forefront of Malaysian writing to publish works on Malayan culture, history, religion and customs.

In the 1980s MSRI's late Founder, Dato' Dr Alijah Gordon, personally witnessed the devastating outcomes of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the civil war in Lebanon.

This compelled her to establish an adopt-a-child sponsorship programme for Palestinian children and assemble a medical aid team who were sent to camp Burj Al Barajneh to aid Palestinian refugees there.



The civil war in Lebanon resulted in an estimated 120,000 fatalities and thousands more displaced and experienced famine.

Both the sponsorship and aid were under the purview of a Malaysian Government-created Trust. This Trust was officially established in 1989, with MSRI appointed as one of its trustees until 2008.

Today, MSRI has grown to serve more than 20 different refugee communities from the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia.

We are a UNHCR Implementing Partner catering to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers through our education, health and empowerment programmes.



The late Dato' Dr Alijah handed copies of her book "In The Time of The Mish Mish", to YAB Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia during the book launch in 2002.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

At the core of the Malaysian Social Research Institute (MSRI) is a Board of Governors with diverse professional backgrounds and expertise. The Board is responsible and accountable for the overall governance and performance of MSRI. The Board steers the organisation towards its mission and purpose through sound, ethical and legal governance and financial management policies.

Providing foresight, oversight and insight, MSRI's Board of Governors are:



Dato' Mohamed Ab Halim
Ab Rahman
Chairman



Fatimah Haron
Treasurer



Hishamudin Ubaidulla
Governor



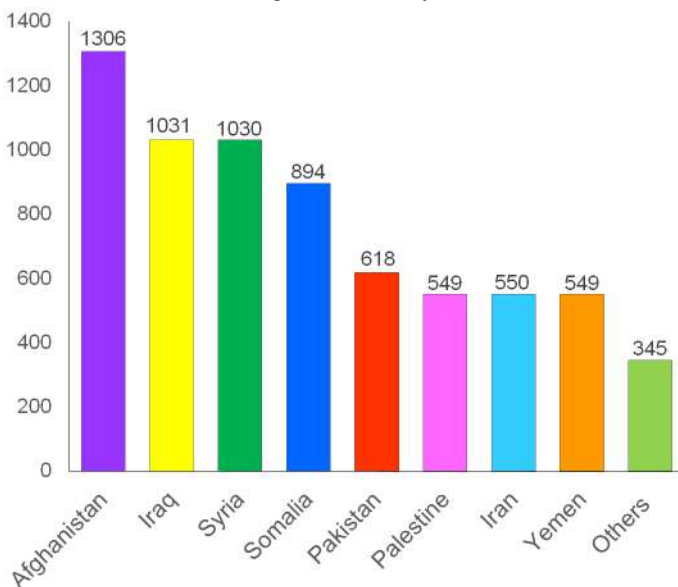
Abdul Halim Abdullah
Governor

MSRI NOW

MSRI is a Malaysian registered non-profit dedicated to providing humanitarian assistance through our Sahabat Refugee Project. We provide humanitarian assistance such as education, health and empowerment programmes to urban refugees and asylum seekers from the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia.

As of 2019, there are about 2,000 families registered with MSRI numbering to almost 7,000 individual refugees and asylum seekers. Our refugee clients are registered with UNHCR.

Number of MSRI's refugee clients according to nationality in 2019



Today, the three main programmes offered under the Sahabat Refugee Project are:

- 🎓 Sahabat Education Programme
- ✚ Sahabat Healthcare Programme
- 🙋 Elham Empowerment Programme

Other supplementary programmes include Emergency Medical Support, Livelihood Support and Legal Advice and Referrals.

Afghanistan remains one of the main populations registered with the Sahabat Refugee Project at 20% followed by Iraq at 15% and Syria at 15%. The number of Palestinian refugees has also grown.

Did you know?

Malaysia is not a signatory of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention which means refugees in Malaysia do not have access to basic human rights such as formal education, healthcare and employment.

Malaysia is perceived as a safe transit for many refugees and asylum seekers who are seeking resettlement elsewhere.

However, the long duration of the resettlement process leaves them in limbo with no means of attaining consistent income, access to affordable healthcare or education due to the non-recognition of their legal status.



World map showing Sahabat Refugee Project's clients' origin countries

SAHABAT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Sahabat Education Programme is an Implementing Partner of UNHCR that offers formalised education for children who are refugees and asylum seekers.

Our education centre offers students a recognised curriculum and pathways to higher education within a safe and conducive environment.

We focus on the overall wellbeing of our students including

their nutritional and mental health needs.

The school operates in two schooling sessions (8.00am to 1.00pm and 1.00pm to 5.00pm) to cater to the high demand for this service from the communities we serve.

The Sahabat School currently serves **430 refugee students** aged 4 to 18 years of age.

🎓 Sahabat Early Childhood Education



Sahabat Early Childhood Education programme provides refugee and asylum-seeking minors aged 4 to 6, years access to early childhood education together with psychosocial support.

All lessons are conducted in English and prepare children for their transition into Primary Education.

🎓 Sahabat Primary Education



The Sahabat Primary Education Programme educates refugee and asylum-seeking children aged 6 to 13 years on Mathematics, English, Social Studies, Science, Computers, Music and Physical Education.

All lessons are conducted in English.

🎓 Sahabat Secondary Education



The Sahabat Secondary Education Programme comprises of students aged 14 to 17 years.

All lessons are conducted in English and the subjects include Mathematics, English, Social Studies, Science, Computers and Physical Education.

🎓 IGCSE Programme



The Sahabat Education Programme began providing students the opportunity to take the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) in 2015.

In 2015 we enrolled 3 students for the IGCSE Examinations and for this year (2019), a total of 18 students will be sitting for their IGCSE Examinations.

🎓 Unaccompanied Minors



The Sahabat Education Programme provides education for children who have been separated from their families or legal guardians referred to as 'Unaccompanied Minors'.

Our students have access to introductory English and Mathematics classes until they are ready to be absorbed into the Sahabat School according to their grades.

🎓 Nutrition and Mental Health



Meals are provided to our students who are taking lessons at Sahabat School.

We also provide mental health and counseling sessions for troubled students.

SAHABAT HEALTHCARE PROGRAMME

The Sahabat Healthcare Programme provides a broad range of services for vulnerable and at-risk refugees or asylum-seekers, most of which have no income.

Their complex health concerns require multiple consultations across a broad range of health disciplines, which include basic healthcare and basic mental health.

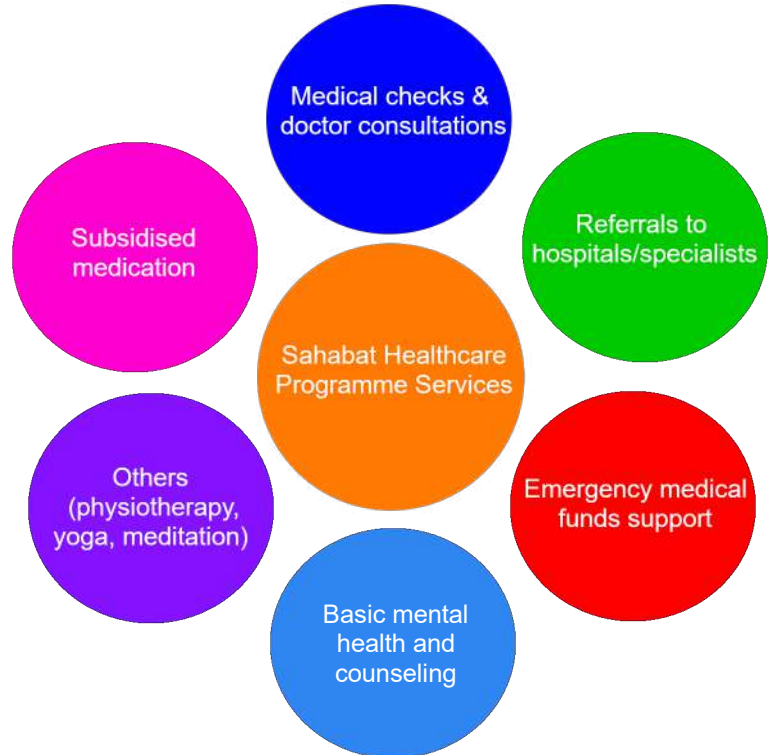
Primary healthcare services are offered Monday to Friday according to the availability of our doctor. There is currently one full time physician and two additional physicians who volunteer their time.

Other services include referrals to partner organisations such as Buddhist Tzu Chi for additional treatments and our optometry partner SpecVision, which provides discounted prices for eye glasses.

The efficacy of our healthcare services is possible thanks to our refugee interpreters who are fluent in Farsi, Arabic, Somali and English.

On average, we serve 35-40 clients per day.

The following services are available at the Sahabat Healthcare Centre:



Basic mental health and psychosocial support services are provided for refugees and asylum seekers, where individuals and families are able to receive counseling from our in-house certified counselors.

The demand for mental health has continued to grow over the last five years as more and more refugee clients are seeking help for trauma, post traumatic stress disorder, suicidal ideation, sexual and gender-based violence, depression and helplessness upon receiving rejections on their quest to be repatriated to host countries.

There are currently four counselors serving this division together with three interpreters who are crucial to the success of the services provided.



Other services provided include social, livelihood and legal referrals to registered refugees and asylum seekers who are in need of assistance.

In the Sahabat Livelihood Assistance Programme, registered participants will be interviewed by our social case workers and the urgency, vulnerability and type of assistance needed is assessed.

Each case will be reviewed by the Social Case Committee where the form of assistance to be granted is decided.

Types of assistance vary from internal referrals (to Sahabat Refugee Project's other programmes) to external referrals (to UNHCR or other partner organisations).



ELHAM EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

The Elham Empowerment Programme provides skills training, entrepreneurship workshops and access to the marketplace for refugee clients.

The entrepreneurship workshops are conducted via the Sahabat Empowerment & Entrepreneurship Programme (SEE Programme) which is a three-month coaching programme focusing on increasing the income generating capabilities of refugees through the selling of goods and services.

We host a weekly bazaar for our refugee clients to buy household goods and appliances, baby items and furnitures for less than RM 8 each. The funds from these sales are used to conduct training programmes and for emergency cases.

We also have a refugee wishlist where our refugee clients can request for specific items. When we receive donations in the form of the requested items (ie. baby stroller, wheelchairs, walkers, baby cribs), we will handover the items to the requester for free.

The Emergency Humanitarian Fund lends assistance to refugees who need temporary financial relief such as groceries, rent, bills, medical expenses and transportation for refugees who experienced loss of jobs, injury, death or illness causing the loss of ability to earn an income.

Entrepreneurship & Empowerment Programme



Skills Training



Access to Marketplace



Handmade soaps



Crochet jewellery



NEW PROGRAMMES

Sahabat Food Aid Programme



In August 2019 the Sahabat Refugee Project will launch the first Sahabat Food Aid Programme, a monthly food aid disbursement programme using the Smart Card Technology.

200 refugee families have been registered for the programme based on certain criterias including household income, number of school-going children, single parent households and special needs.

The families will be able to purchase RM 120 worth of groceries every month at participating retail outlets for the duration of one year using the Sahabat Card.

This is a dignified method of disbursing aid and also minimises wastage.

Farming For Refugees



In our efforts to maintain sustainable funding, MSRI is embarking on a project to farm 10-acres of land to produce and sell papayas.

Through this sustainable funding initiative, we hope to reduce our reliance on donations to enable the continuation of the Sahabat Refugee Project's free services for the 7,000 refugee clients under our care.

In this project we will be training and employing 5-10 refugee clients to work on the farm for a salary, accommodation and benefits.

Profits from the farm will be channeled to the Sahabat Education Programme, Sahabat Healthcare Programme and the Elham Empowerment Programme.

To help us raise the funds for these projects, please contact us at admin@msri.org.my

PLEASE SUPPORT US!



FUNDING

MSRI operations rely entirely on the goodwill and donations from philanthropic individuals and corporate organisations without which, none of our programmes would be possible.

Our centres have a long waiting list of clients with high medical, education and livelihood needs.

Our Emergency Medical Fund and Emergency Humanitarian Fund is in need of funds.

We appeal for your contribution in order to help our refugees meet their basic human rights needs and to help them become productive members of society.

To help us self-sustain and reduce our reliance on donations, please visit www.simplygiving.com and support our **Farming For Refugees Project**.



BUY

MSRI regularly participates in bazaars and sales in malls and events around Klang Valley to help our clients sell their products and services.

This service ties-in very closely to our entrepreneurship and empowerment programme.

We also receive and manage corporate and retail orders on behalf of our refugee-clients.

Example of products and services produced by our clients are:

- Food and catering
- Jewellery/art pieces
- Handmade soaps
- Handmade clutches /purses
- Tailored baju kurungs



IN KIND

Aside from making monetary donations or buy refugee-made products and services, you can support us by donations, individuals can adopt-a-family or donate milk and diapers for infants.

Individuals can also support by volunteering their time and skills at our three centers as:

- Volunteer teachers
- Volunteer doctors
- Volunteer coordinators
- And many more!



We are selling printed tote bags featuring paintings made by our refugee students.

Please contact us to see the latest designs and place orders at admin@msri.org.my

BANKING & DONATION DETAILS

CHEQUE

Made payable to:
"Malaysian Social Research Institute"

TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER

NAME OF BANK	STANDARD CHARTERED BERHAD
ACCOUNT NO	312-1-5705335-9
SWIFT CODE	SCSRMYK1
BANK ADDRESS	Level 2, No 36, Jalan Sultan Ismail, 50250 Kuala Lumpur

Kindly notify us via email at admin@msri.org.my of your contribution. Do include your **name, address** and **email address**.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

All in-kind donations may be sent to MSRI's office as addressed below:

No 1A, Jalan Mamanda 7, Ampang Point, 68000 Ampang, Selangor Darul Ehsan.

ONLINE CROWD-FUNDING PLATFORM

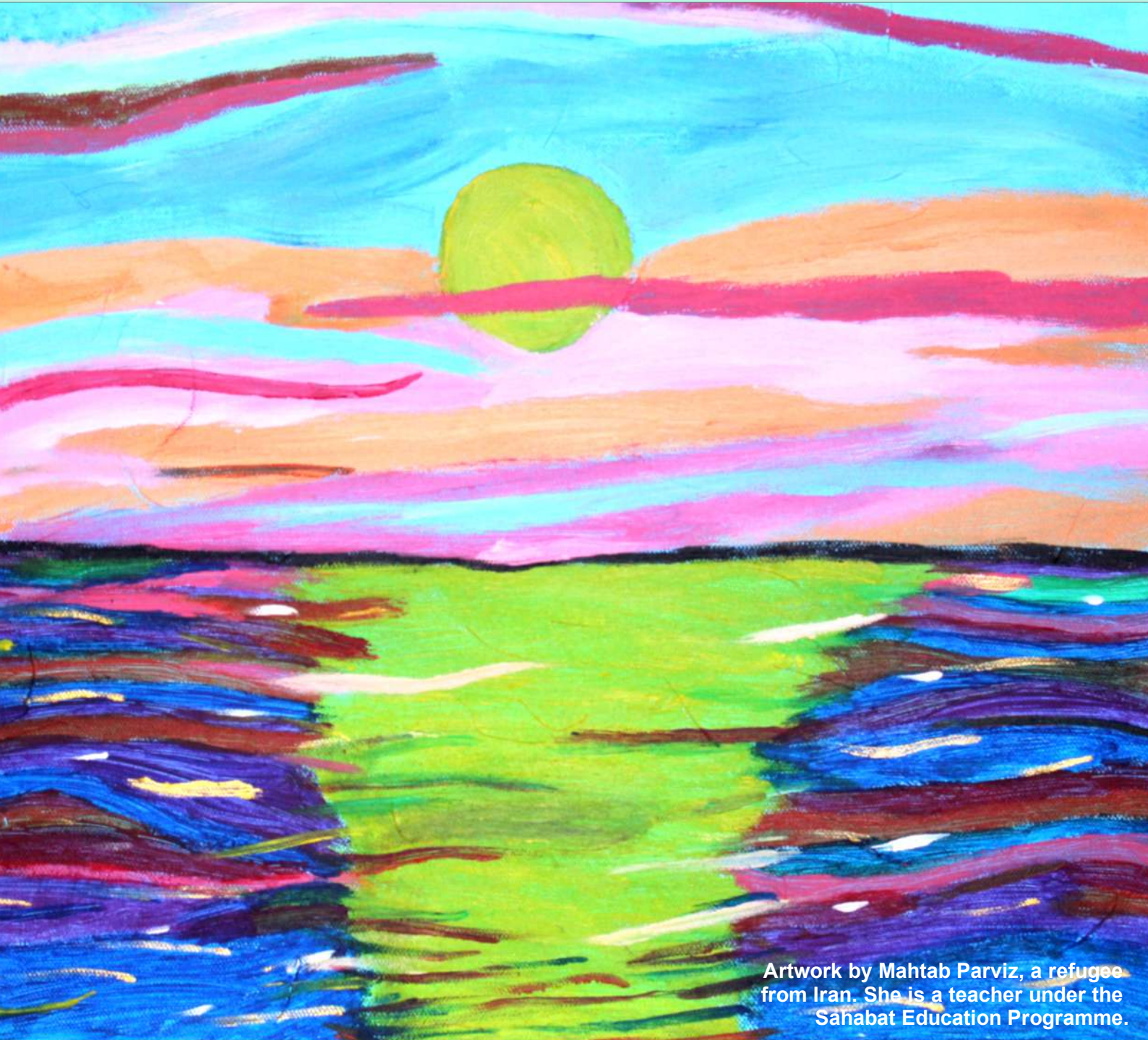
<https://www.simplygiving.com/nonprofit/msri>

**Your contributions will make a big difference in the lives of the people we serve.
We thank you in advance.**

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THANK YOU!



Artwork by Mahtab Parviz, a refugee from Iran. She is a teacher under the Sahabat Education Programme.

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