SDN - Supporting Sudanese New Arrivals project report

The Sudan Arrivals Project was launched in response to the humanitarian crisis stemming from the current proxy war in Sudan. This initiative aims to support Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers arriving in the UK, many of whom face undignified conditions in asylum hotels and detention centres. The Sudanese Diaspora Network sponsored by Islamic Relief, collaborated with London for Sudan, Madaniya and Sudanese Legal Network for the delivery of this project.

Activities undertaken

The main activities within the project were:
1. Basic Needs Distribution: Resource accessibility - Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers receive vital resources and access to an emergency fund.
Provided access to essential resources in the form of a hardship/relief fund to spend on food, clothing, and travel for asylum seekers. We set up a needs assessment form for requests and have a meeting with individuals who require emergency assistance. This was at capped £100 per adult and £50 per child. 1,902 individuals applied, we read every application and prioritised the most needy and we only managed to provide funds for **202** individuals.

2. Unity Through Community Events: Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers develop a sense of belonging and experience an overall improvement in their well-being.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Support

- Held **informal wellbeing conversations** during hotel, community visits and social calls offering consistent emotional support focused on listening and trust-building.
- Referred or signposted individuals to **appropriate and trauma-informed mental health services**.

English Language Support

- Assisted English Classes across our visits.
- Delivered beginner and intermediate classes with cultural sensitivity.
- Help with Care4Calais language session on weekly basis, advice clinic after. 3 different locations, once a week. Reached from 10-30 residents regularly for each class depending on the hotel. e.g. barbican 10-12 people, Whitechapel 20 people, vauxhall 10-12 approx, ealing tbc.

Events

- Cultural community event in Brighton beach to bring the Sudanese community together to support with integration of new arrivals.
- Clothing drive. Evaluation form. for e.g. 70% more than pleased with service. People wanted more visits.
- Socials with sudanese food. Brighton trip. Connected with care4calais.
- Organised clothing drives throughout the year, depending on the needs. E.g in winter we ran a winter clothes drive.

- Distributed essential clothing items to individuals/families.
  Partnered with local organisations and donation centres to make sure the distribution was effective.

Social Media Campaign

- Reached hundreds of people through social media
  Shared emergency guidance and asylum system updates in Arabic and English.

- Mobilised volunteer support. Trained up to 100 volunteers across the UK, over 30 of whom are currently active and committed to the project.
- Volunteers conducted regular **Asylum Hotel Visits** across hotels in the London region (whitechapel, barbican, lambeth)
- Delivered ongoing **Community Check-Ins** and needs assessments.

3. Home Office Questionnaire Support: Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers are assisted with home office questionnaire and government documentation.
Personal Advocacy Support

- **Objective:** Ensure individual refugees receive guidance and aid navigating the asylum process. Provide resources and signpost individuals to receive the support they require e.g. helping them get interviews/interview support/prepping, how to attend interviews, travel documents, bank documents, register with GP, translation, fill in forms, medical interpretation, housing support, contacting Migrant Help on their behalf etc.
- **Outputs:**

  - Provided 1-on-1 advocacy to asylum seekers across the hotels we support.
  - Supported with documentation, legal appointments, enrollment into education and GP registration.
  - Liaised with local councils and NGOs on behalf of vulnerable individuals.
  - Help asylum seekers navigate the processes in the UK e.g. translating/filling in documentation and attending appointments with them.

Advice Clinics

- **Objective:** Offer tailored guidance on immigration, benefits, housing, and rights.

- **Outputs:**

  - Held Advice Clinics (online/in-person).
  - Supported individuals in navigating systems (Home Office, NHS, DWP).
  - Signposted individuals for accurate information and correct details to support them.

Virtual Social Support Calls

- **Objective:** To connect with Sudanese asylum seekers who applied for the SDN Hardship Fund, offering them ongoing support and identifying additional needs.

These calls aimed to build trust, reduce isolation, and provide a consistent point of contact for emotional, practical, and community support.

- **Outputs:**
    - Conducted **Virtual Social Support Calls**, primarily targeting SDN Hardship Fund applicants.
    - Engaged **individuals** through regular check ins
      Signposted participants to relevant services and followed up with tailored support based on individual needs.

Impact Summary

- **Total individuals supported:** Each hotel has hundreds of residents who needs support
- **Geographic reach:** Currently operating across london for in person visits and across the UK for social calls
- **Volunteer engagement:** over 100 volunteers signed and trained, over 30 active volunteers
- **Organisations involved or have helped:** Sudanese Diaspora Network, London for Sudan, Madaniya, Sudanese Legal Network, Care 4 Calais, Thread ahead, Waging Peace

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Challenges Encountered

- Limited access to detention centres and some asylum accommodations.
- Inconsistent communication from asylum housing providers.
- Scarce services.
- Digital exclusion among some newly arrived refugees.

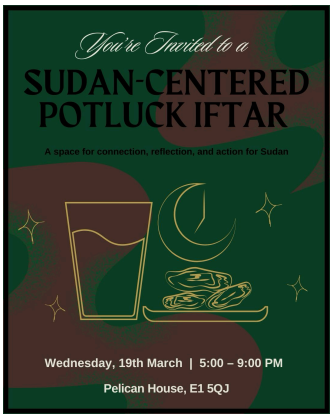
Next Steps & Funding Needs

- Expand English classes and advice clinics to more locations
- Increase the frequency of wellbeing sessions and personal advocacy visits.
- Hire a full-time coordinator to manage volunteer and service logistics.
- Invest in materials for clothing drives, transport costs, and emergency supplies.

Images from the project:




















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سوف نرحب بكل من طالبي اللجوء و اللاجئين وغير اللاجئين في المملكه المتحدة بريطانيا بأن يشاركونا في رحله لمتنا الي برايتون، وسف يكون لنا تذاكر مجانيه ل طالبي اللجوء السودانين في المملكة المتحدة.
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