

AL BASAR INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

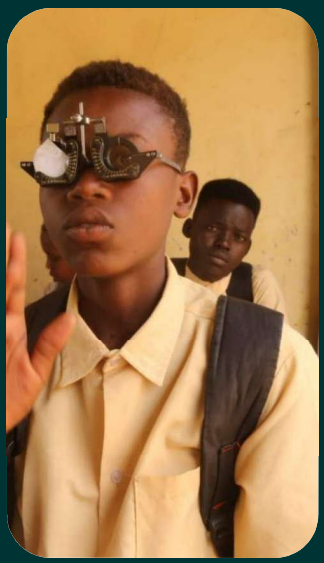
Transforming Lives Since 1989

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025
Registered charity in England and Wales (1160758)
CIO registration no. CE040066

Building 3, 566 Chiswick High Road
London W4 5YA
albasar.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT
2025

CONTENTS



OUR YEAR

Message from the Chair 03
About Al Basar 04
Why Sight? 05
Our Global Impact 06
Objectives and Achievements 07
A Clearer Future for Rifa 08

OUR WORK

Our Approach 09
Prevention — School Eye-Screening 10
Treatment — Outreach Programmes 12
Specialised Programmes 14
Eye Hospitals 15
Empowerment — Training and Development 16
Partnerships 17

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Governance & Trustees' Report 18
Financial Review 23
Trustees' Responsibilities & Approval 26
Independent Auditor's Report 27
Financial Statements 28
Accounting Policies and Notes 31
Thank You 44

FOREWORD

Message from the Chair



“A year of both deepening impact and deliberate transformation.”

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication and resilience that continue to define Al Basar International Foundation. This was a year of both deepening impact and deliberate transformation — one in which we not only reached more people than ever before, but reshaped how we are built to serve them for years to come.

Our teams brought sight-restoring care to communities across 138 cities in 36 countries. We screened more than 2.5 million individuals and performed over 241,000 eye surgeries — growth across every measure of our work, achieved not by spreading ourselves thinner, but by strengthening the hospitals, outreach teams, and partnerships that make lasting care possible. Our network grew to 32 hospitals, each an anchor of hope in a region where quality eye care remains scarce.

Our commitment to prevention also reached new heights: through our school eye-screening programmes we examined more than 275,000 students across hundreds of schools — several times our previous reach — catching problems early and keeping children in learning.

Behind these numbers lies a quieter but equally significant change. In May 2025 we completed our transition to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, giving us a clearer, more accountable governance structure. Alongside it, we began building a federated model that grants our regional offices greater autonomy while keeping us united in mission and values. This is how we ensure that the care we provide is owned by, and sustained within, the communities we serve.

None of this would be possible without our partners. From the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre to Direct Aid, the Muslim World League, and valued collaborators old and new, their trust has expanded our reach and multiplied our impact. To our field teams, donors, and supporters around the world — thank you. Your belief in this cause continues to bring light into countless lives.

As we look ahead, we do so with humility and resolve — determined to reach those still waiting, and to realise a world where no one is left in darkness.

Dr. Adel Al Rushood
FOUNDER AND CHAIR

WHO WE ARE

About Al Basar

Al Basar International Foundation was established in 1989 by the Saudi Arabian ophthalmologist Dr. Adel Al Rushood, who recognised that millions of people were losing their sight to conditions that were entirely preventable or treatable — held back not by medicine, but by poverty and distance from care. From a first outreach programme in Pakistan, Al Basar has grown into a global eye-health organisation delivering free and affordable care across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

What began as mobile outreach to remote and underserved communities has become a sustainable model of local care: a network of eye hospitals and clinics, training institutes that build local expertise, and school and community screening programmes that catch problems early.



MORE THAN THREE DECADES OF IMPACT

2,500+
Outreach camps organised

890,000+
Surgeries performed

~30 million
Nearly 30 million outpatients treated

2.3 million
Pairs of glasses distributed

53
Countries reached

1989
Year founded

OUR MISSION

To treat and eradicate preventable blindness in communities around the world — building hospitals, performing cataract surgeries, training healthcare professionals, and conducting school screenings so that quality eye care reaches those who need it most.

OUR VISION

A world free from preventable blindness, where every community has access to quality eye healthcare. Guided by our values, we collaborate with local partners to safeguard vision and empower communities.

THE NEED

Why Sight?

Sight is our most dominant sense and central to nearly everything we do — learning, working, moving safely through the world, and caring for those around us. Yet for hundreds of millions of people, it remains out of reach.



2.2 billion
people globally have a near or distance vision impairment

1 billion
of these cases could have been prevented or are yet to be addressed

90%
of the 1.1 billion people living with vision loss live in low- and middle-income countries

US$411bn
estimated annual global loss of productivity from vision impairment

1 in 2 people who need cataract surgery worldwide cannot obtain it

2 in 3 people in low-income countries who need glasses go without

The leading causes of vision impairment are refractive errors and cataracts — precisely the conditions Al Basar exists to treat. The cost is human and economic alike. Restoring sight is one of the most cost-effective interventions in global health — and one of the most transformative for the individual, their family, and their community.

Sources: World Health Organization, Blindness and vision impairment fact sheet (updated 10 February 2026); IAPB Vision Atlas.

2025 AT A GLANCE

Our Global Impact

Throughout 2025 we strengthened our global response to preventable blindness, expanding access to high-quality eye care across underserved communities. Every consultation, treatment, and sight-restoring surgery delivered more than medical support — it restored independence, dignity, and hope. Together, these results reflect the dedication of our field teams, partners, and donors working toward sustainable, long-term impact.

2,526,534
Individuals screened

241,894
Eye surgeries

190,111
Glasses distributed

1,752,189
Hospital outpatients

138 / 36
Cities / countries

32
Eye hospitals
(31 operational)

These figures span three complementary streams of work. The pages that follow set out each in turn.

PREVENTION	School and community screening
TREATMENT	Outreach programmes and our hospital network
EMPOWERMENT	Training local eye-care professionals



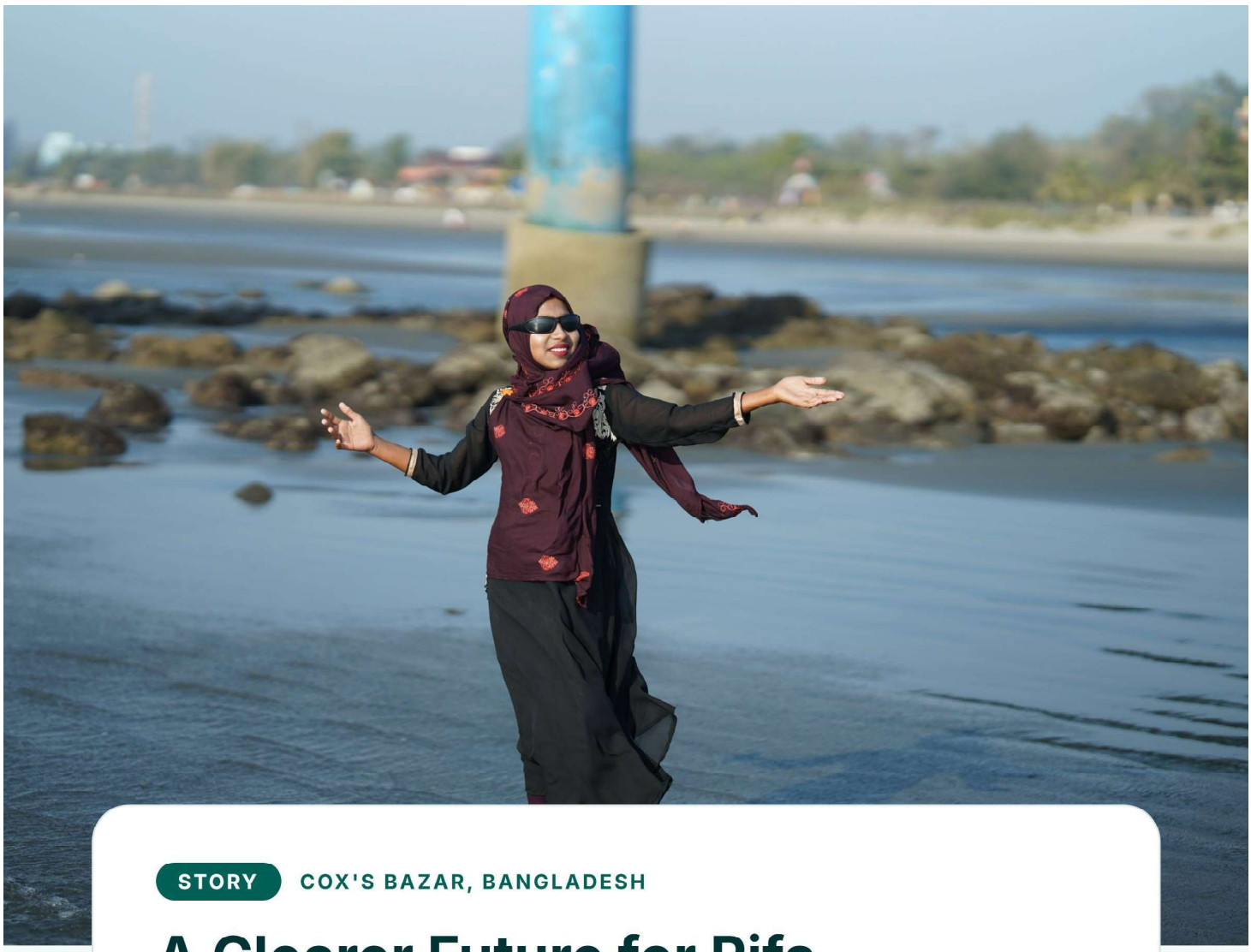
PERFORMANCE

2025 Objectives and Achievements

The following table summarises our key 2025 objectives, including the commitments made in last year's report, and the principal results achieved during the year.

2025 OBJECTIVE	2025 RESULT	ASSESSMENT
Deliver at least 180 outreach programmes (2024 report commitment)	**191 programmes**	Target exceeded, across 36 countries
Expand eye-screening access	**2,526,534 screened**	Significant reach across 36 countries
Deliver sight-restoring surgery	**241,894 surgeries**	Delivered through hospitals and outreach
Expand school screening	**275,939 pupils screened**	471 schools in Pakistan, Sudan and Nigeria
Strengthen hospital capacity	**32 hospitals, 31 operational**	Makkah Eye Hospital in Nyala, Sudan, non-operational because of the conflict
Strengthen local professional capacity	**318 graduates**	Three institutes operating, with 900+ currently in training
Advance localisation (2024 report commitment)	**CIO conversion completed**	Federated model advanced; Nigeria and Bangladesh arrangements progressed with specialist advice





STORY COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

A Clearer Future for Rifa

At just 12 years old, Rifa was struggling to see the world clearly. Her failing vision was affecting her daily life and her education, narrowing a future that should have been opening up before her.

Through our outreach programme in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Rifa received the eye examination and cataract surgery she needed. With her sight restored, she returned to her studies and to the ordinary joys of childhood — reading, learning, and looking ahead with confidence.

Rifa's story is one of many. Behind every figure in this report is a person whose life has been changed by the gift of sight.

HOW WE WORK

Our Approach

Al Basar's work is organised around three connected pillars. Together they form a continuum of care — from preventing avoidable sight loss, to treating those already affected, to strengthening the local systems and people who sustain eye health for the long term.



Prevention

Supporting the prevention of blindness through school eye-screening programmes and primary ophthalmology care — providing free screenings, eyeglasses, awareness, and timely referrals in underserved communities.



Treatment

Delivering treatment through outreach programmes, specialised programmes, and our network of eye hospitals — providing surgeries, medications, eyeglasses, and advanced care that restore sight.



Empowerment

Promoting empowerment through colleges, local governance, and staff development — strengthening local healthcare systems, training professionals, and supporting sustainable eye care worldwide.

PREVENTION

School Eye-Screening Programmes

Clear vision is fundamental to a child's education. An undetected sight problem can quietly hold a child back for years. Our school eye-screening programmes bring examinations, glasses, and referrals directly into schools, catching problems early and keeping children in learning.

In 2025, our school programmes reached further than ever before. Across Pakistan, Sudan, and Nigeria, more than 275,000 students were screened in 471 schools — a substantial expansion on prior years — alongside thousands of teachers, whose own vision is central to the quality of classroom teaching.

80%

of classroom learning is visual

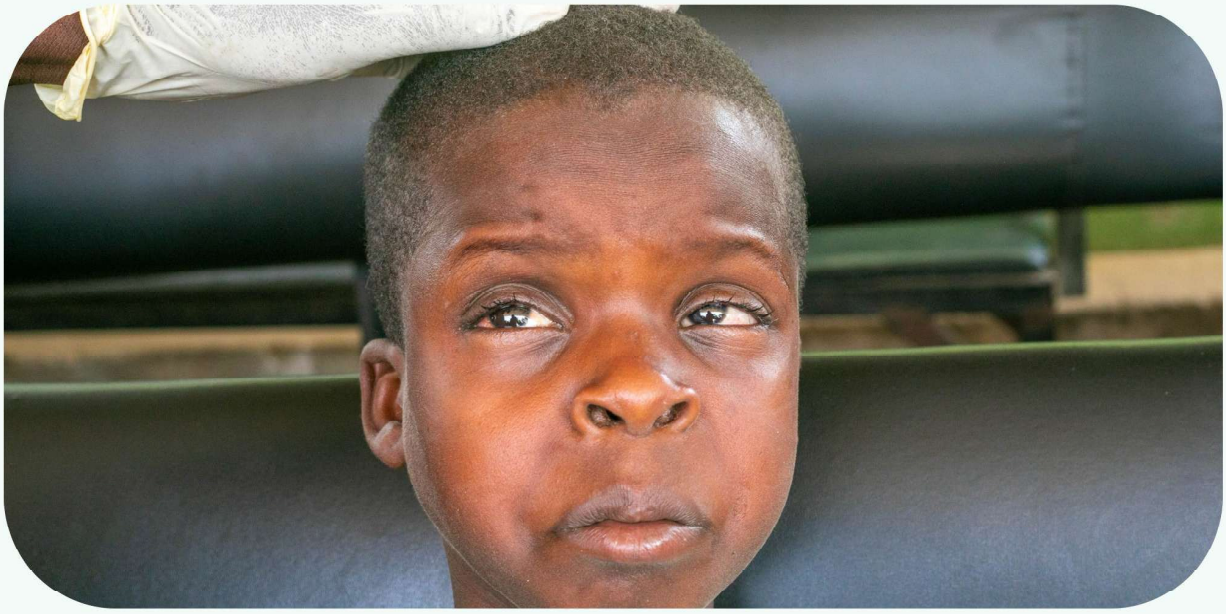
UCLA study

COUNTRY	SCHOOLS	STUDENTS	TEACHERS	GLASSES	REFERRALS
Pakistan	201	101,655	2,433	1,685	793
Sudan	187	101,305	3,542	7,157	2,347
Nigeria	83	72,979	2,534	3,688	383
Total	**471**	**275,939**	**8,509**	**12,530**	**3,523**

In Sudan, a further 54 pupils received sight-restoring surgery. Pakistan's programme was delivered in Karachi across three phases; Sudan's spanned Port Sudan, Atbara, Ed Damer and Manaseer.







SPOTLIGHT

Kano State, Nigeria

Delivered in collaboration with the Kano State Ministry of Health, the Kano State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), and the Gwale and KMC Local Government Councils, this twenty-day programme was conducted across 83 primary schools (43 in Gwale and 40 in KMC). Of the 72,979 pupils screened, 2,380 received medications, 2,722 were prescribed corrective spectacles, and 383 were referred to Makkah Specialist Eye Hospital for advanced management.

Recognising the central role of teachers, the programme also screened teachers across the participating schools and provided 966 reading glasses to address presbyopia and age-related visual impairment, with those diagnosed with cataract referred for subsidised evaluation and surgical care. By embedding eye health within the school system, the initiative improved outcomes for learners and educators alike.

72,979
Pupils screened in 20 days

2,722
Prescribed spectacles

2,380
Received medications

966
Reading glasses for teachers

TREATMENT

Outreach Programmes

Our outreach programmes carry eye care to communities that would otherwise go without — through free eye screenings, cataract and other sight-restoring surgeries, eyeglasses distribution, and essential medications. In 2025 this remained the largest single channel of our work.

191	36	756,464	76,126
Outreach programmes	Countries	Individuals reached	Eye surgeries

Programmes spanned 36 countries across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Sudan remained our single largest programme despite the ongoing conflict — a testament to the commitment of our local teams — while our reach extended to communities in Türkiye and across the Sahel, reflecting a deliberate focus on the hardest-to-reach populations.



TOP TEN COUNTRIES BY PEOPLE REACHED

Sudan	139,653
Pakistan	84,146
Niger	78,820
Yemen	45,725
Bangladesh	42,163
Chad	39,552
Morocco	37,812
Nigeria	33,132
Afghanistan	24,910
Sri Lanka	22,171

Full country breakdown overleaf.

TREATMENT

Outreach Reach by Country

COUNTRY	PROG.	REACHED
Sudan	32	139,653
Pakistan	21	84,146
Niger	17	78,820
Yemen	20	45,725
Bangladesh	8	42,163
Chad	10	39,552
Morocco	10	37,812
Nigeria	7	33,132
Afghanistan	6	24,910
Sri Lanka	5	22,171
Türkiye	7	22,084
Ethiopia	3	16,962
Senegal	4	16,732
Togo	3	11,280
Central African Republic	2	9,696
Burkina Faso	2	9,101
Mauritania	3	9,000
Somalia	2	8,796

COUNTRY	PROG.	REACHED
Jordan	2	8,572
Ghana	2	8,203
Uganda	2	8,200
Republic of the Congo	2	8,002
Gabon	2	8,000
Equatorial Guinea	2	6,942
South Sudan	2	6,800
Djibouti	2	6,434
Eritrea	2	5,500
Gambia	1	5,242
Tanzania	2	5,144
Mali	1	5,057
Kenya	2	5,000
Guinea-Bissau	1	4,367
DR Congo	1	4,002
Burundi	1	4,000
Sierra Leone	1	3,660
Zambia	1	1,604
Total — 36 countries	**191**	**756,464**



TREATMENT

Specialised Programmes

Beyond routine cataract and refractive care, our specialised programmes treat more serious and complex eye conditions — including corneal disease, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy — that require advanced skills and equipment. In 2025 these programmes delivered targeted, sight-saving interventions for patients who would otherwise have few options.

600
Total specialised procedures

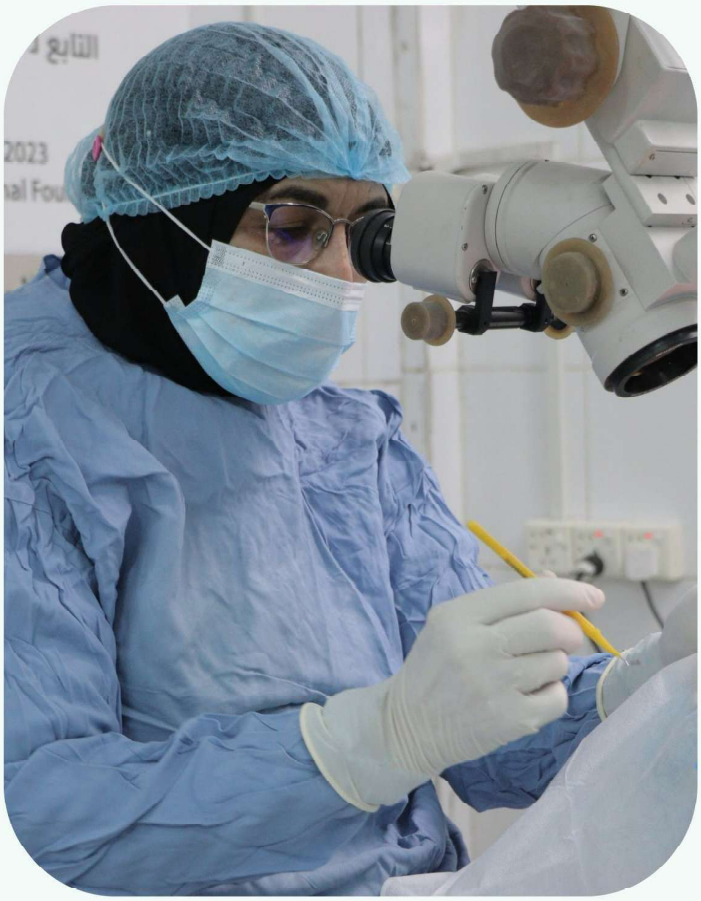
255
Retinopathy surgeries

155
Minor procedures

120
Laser procedures

55
Glaucoma surgeries

15
Cornea surgeries





TREATMENT

Eye Hospitals

Millions continue to face barriers to eye care through limited availability, high costs, and social inequality — with poverty and gender disparities leaving many, and disproportionately women, without treatment. Our eye hospitals are located in areas of greatest need, ensuring that quality care remains accessible and affordable for underserved communities all year round.

In 2025 our network grew to 32 hospitals, of which 31 are operational; Makkah Eye Hospital in Nyala, Sudan, remains non-operational owing to the conflict. Across the network we cared for over 1.75 million outpatients and performed more than 165,000 eye surgeries.

32	1,752,189	165,123	6
Hospitals in network (31 operational)	Outpatients	Eye surgeries	Countries

HOSPITALS BY COUNTRY

Sudan	10
Pakistan	9
Bangladesh	5
Yemen	4
Nigeria	3
Niger	1
Total	**32**

The network grew from 29 in 2024 with two new hospitals and one reopened.



EMPOWERMENT

Training and Development

Sustainable eye care depends on local expertise. Through our colleges and training institutes, Al Basar develops the ophthalmic professionals who staff our hospitals and outreach teams — ensuring that the communities we serve are not dependent on outside help, but are equipped to lead their own eye-health services for generations to come.

Al Basar operates three eye-care training institutes, in Niger, Pakistan, and Sudan. To date, our institutes have graduated more than 2,200 professionals, with over 900 students currently in training — building a lasting foundation of local capacity across the regions we serve.

In 2025, 318 students graduated across our three institutes: 227 in Sudan, 63 in Pakistan (47 graduates and 16 postgraduates), and 28 in Niger.

3
Training institutes

2,200+
Graduates to date

900+
Currently in training

318
Graduated in 2025



WORKING TOGETHER

Partnerships

In 2025 our partnerships remained instrumental in expanding our reach and impact. By collaborating with humanitarian funders, global NGOs, local authorities, and healthcare providers, we strengthened our ability to deliver eye care, share knowledge, and mobilise resources — bringing us one step closer to a world free from preventable blindness.

Our outreach programmes were made possible by a coalition of partners, led by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre and Direct Aid. Notably, more than 15% of our outreach was self-funded by Al Basar, together with the generosity of individual donors — a sign of the organisation's growing resilience and the breadth of its support base.

OUTREACH PROGRAMMES BY FUNDING PARTNER

191 programmes

King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre	118	**61.8%**
Direct Aid	36	**18.8%**
Al Basar (self-funded)	29	**15.2%**
Individual donors	4	**2.1%**
Al Basar USA · MATW Project · Muslim World League · Kind Giving Foundation	1 each	**0.5% each**

OUR PARTNERS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Al Basar is a member of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and the Muslim Charities Forum, and is registered with the Fundraising Regulator in the United Kingdom.



THANK YOU

YOUR SUPPORT RESTORES SIGHT

Every surgery, every pair of glasses, and every child who returns to the classroom able to see is made possible by the generosity of our supporters. Thank you for standing with us in the work of restoring sight and transforming lives.

Donate Today ♡ albasar.org.uk

EMAIL
info@albasar.org.uk

PHONE
020 8899 7420

ADDRESS
Building 3, 566 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 5YA

Registered charity in England and Wales (1160758). CIO registration no. CE040066. Registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

مؤسسة البصر العالمية
ALBASAR INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

FR FUNDRAISING REGULATOR