

# **Gift of the Givers**

## **Homepage:**

Serving  
Humanity

The Gift of the Givers Foundation is the largest disaster response non-governmental organisation of African origin on the African continent. The essence of our presence is to bring hope and restore dignity to the most vulnerable

R6 BILLION IN AID 47 COUNTRIES 33 YEARS

## **About us page:**

Overview

The Gift of the Givers Foundation is the largest disaster response, non-governmental organisation of African origin on the African continent.

It works to unite people, with a common vision, to make a real and telling difference by serving humankind for the 'Greater Good.'

Assistance is provided unconditionally; assisting the needy, irrespective of human or animal, race, religion, colour, class, political affiliation, or geographic location.

Since its inception in 1992, the organisation has been responsible for the delivery of life-saving goods and on-the-ground support for innumerable people, collectively valued at some R4.5 billion, in more than 45 countries across the globe, including South Africa.

Gift of the Givers restores the hope and dignity of the most vulnerable in their time of need, rebuilding prosperous communities and empowering leaders of tomorrow.

# What We do

## **Fast and Active Disaster Response:**

Our responses to disasters vary, dependent on prevailing conditions in identified disaster or war zones.

We have the immediate capacity to deliver all the appropriate materials, inclusive of:

- Temporary shelter;
- Bedding and blankets;
- Basic foodstuffs, inclusive of baby provisions;
- Sibusiso Ready Food Supplement (a high-energy and protein supplement, innovated by Gift of the Givers – and the first of its kind in the world);
- A wide range of medical supplies, medical equipment, and ambulances; and
- Generators for emergency power supply.

In addition, we can immediately call on professional search and rescue teams and medical specialists, whilst facilitating the evacuation of affected people.

We also undertake the rebuilding and/or rehabilitation of infrastructure, such as homes, schools, and medical facilities damaged during crises.

## **A Passion for Hunger Alleviation:**

Hunger is a universal problem.

In recognition of this, we distribute more than 100 000 food parcels annually, prepare and serve hot meals at our own centres, whilst also supporting existing feeding schemes through the provision of thousands of meals daily.

We further assist in key agricultural projects, supporting subsistence farmers in distress, as well as providing animal feed for needy farmers during crippling drought events.

### **Committed to the Provision of Water:**

Water is a precious and scarce resource, and one evermore affected by global climate change.

We have in place a number of water tankers, used for the delivery of water to desperate communities, and actively encourage the harvesting and recycling of water, whilst also establishing desalination treatment plants and providing point-of-use water purification solutions and – as a last resort – go so far as to provide bottled water to critically-affected communities.

We are integrally involved with borehole drilling operations, together with the development of such sites at schools, clinics, and other central community points. Our team, headed by a geohydrologist with more than 40 years' experience, is responsible for the sighting, drilling, testing, developing, and monitoring all our borehole sites on a continuous basis.

### **Promoting Human Development:**

The under-development of many historically disadvantaged communities is regarded as a massive socio-economic problem.

Recognising this, we have developed a series of programmes designed to promote the empowerment and dignity of our young people, including:

- The provision of a range of school supplies for young learners;
- A toll-free telephonic, as well as face-to-face counselling service;
- Life skills training interventions and workshops; and
- Skills development initiatives.

### **Creating an Environment Conducive to Education:**

We contribute towards the creation of an environment conducive to the improved education of the disadvantaged.

#### **We have in place:**

- A comprehensive bursary programme, providing opportunities for deserving candidates to complete their tertiary education;

an education they would have otherwise been denied;

- A schools infrastructural development programme, improving the quality of school toilets and the provision of potable water within educational institutions; and

#### Contributing to the Healthcare of Communities:

Access to sound healthcare is the right of every citizen.

We have the capacity to contribute meaningfully to the provision of both healthcare facilities and practitioners.

A current key project involves our successful operation of one of the largest hospitals in war-torn Northern Syria. Therefore, the Geneva-based humanitarian movement, the Red Crescent, has entrusted our organisation with the responsibility for a second hospital.

We have primary healthcare workers, doctors and mid-wives who spend extensive time in the field in Somalia, and we direct a Poor Patient Fund, which covers hospital treatment for patients unable to afford hospital such care in the Middle East.

In addition, we have also been actively involved in:

- Funding certain identified operations;
- Establishing an audiology screening programme in Soshanguve, Pretoria; and
- The large-scale distribution of wheelchairs.

### **WHERE WE WORK**

South Africa

Zimbabwe

Malawi

Somalia

Yemen

Palestine

Syria

## **Our Inspiration**

“My son, you will form an organisation. The name will be Waqful Waqifin, and that name is translated into ‘Gift of the Givers.’ You will serve all people of all races, of all religions, of all colours, of all classes, of all political affiliations and of any geographical location. You will serve them unconditionally.”

– Sufi Sheikh Muhammed Saffer Effendi al Jerrahi

... After receiving this message from his spiritual leader in Istanbul, Türkiye, at the age of just 30, Gift of the Givers founder, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, immediately heeded the calling... and continues to do so to this day.

Following that life-changing day in 1992, Dr Sooliman returned to South Africa, left a flourishing career as a medical doctor, and established the Gift of the Givers Foundation.

In the intervening years, he has travelled to some of the most desolate, war-torn, and disaster-struck areas of the world, heading relief missions. Through his work with Gift of the Givers, he and his teams have responded to the needs of countless people affected by a wide range of natural and manufactured disasters, such as floods, famine, tsunamis, earthquakes, and wars.

He has facilitated the establishment of hospitals, run clinics, created agricultural schemes, dug wells, built houses, developed and manufactured an energy food, renovated fishing boats, offered scholarships and provided food and shelter to millions.

The transition from doctor to humanitarian was both seamless and simple.

He is driven by the same basic principles that led to his becoming a medical doctor: respect, care, professionalism, and dedication. But there is something else that fuels Dr Sooliman’s passion for humanitarianism – the solid belief in the common humanity that unites us. His fervour for, and belief in, humankind is what really motivates and energises him, and the reason is his faith.

His sense of community is felt throughout his endeavours with Gift of the Givers.

When disaster strikes or pleas for assistance are sounded – whether in South Africa or abroad – he and Gift of the Givers are ready with an immediate response, swiftly rallying the organisation’s network of doctors, nurses, relief workers and other professionals, and despatching humanitarian and medical supplies to disaster areas.

We are fortunate that the good works of Gift of the Givers has, over the years, brought with it many accolades and awards.

Such blessed acknowledgement of our humble humanitarian endeavours is due - in no small measure - to the exceptional backing we have received, and, indeed, continue to receive from our numerous supporters; our donors, partners, media and public.

#### Our Awards and Recognition

##### Presidential Awards

1993 - 19 Oct, President's Order of the Star of South Africa from President F.W. De Klerk, which is the highest civilian award in the country.

1997 - 25 Apr, Pietermaritzburg City Council Civic Commendation Award from President Nelson Mandela for Outstanding Community Service.

2010 - 27 Apr, President Jacob Zuma honours Dr Sooliman with the Order of the Grand Counsellor of the Baobab: Silver award for his excellent contribution through Gift of the Givers to humanitarian aid nationally and internationally.

2006 - 30 Jun, Presidential Award, Tamgha-i-Eisaar, from the President of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, for Pakistan Earthquake

2018 - 01 Feb, Former President FW de Klerk presents the Goodwill Award to Dr Imtiaz Sooliman.

##### 9 Honorary Doctorates

2007 - 20 Sep, Honorary Doctorate in Health Sciences awarded to Dr Imtiaz Sooliman from Tshwane University of Technology

2010 - 23 Apr, Honorary Doctorate in Social Science awarded to Dr Sooliman by University of KwaZulu Natal.

2010 - 06 Sep, Honorary Doctorate in Health Sciences awarded to Dr Sooliman by Durban University of Technology.

2016 - 01 Apr, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman receives Honorary Doctorate from Rhodes University.

2016 - 16 Apr, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman receives Honorary Doctorate from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

2016 - 11 May, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman receives Honorary Doctorate from University of Fort Hare.

2016 - 08 Sep, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman receives Honorary Doctorate from the Vaal University of Technology, Faculty of Science.

2017 - 07 Sep, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman receives the Chancellor's Medal from the University of Pretoria.

2018 – 20 Mar, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman was awarded an Honorary Doctorate at the University of Stellenbosch for the establishment of the Gift of the Givers.

2019 – 22 May, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman receives an Honorary Doctorate from the Northwest University faculty of Economics and Management Sciences.

2015 - 14 Feb, Ubuntu Award from the Department of International Relations for Social Diplomacy.

2016 - 03 Jun, MEC's Service Excellence Award from Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, MEC of Health, KZN.

2014, Dr Sooliman profiled as 1 of 21 South African icons.

2013 and 2014, Dr Sooliman chosen as 1 of the 100 Most World Class South Africans by City Press.

2009 - 18 Nov, Recognised as one of 500 of the world's most influential Muslims in a book by Prof John Esposito of Georgetown University.

2010 - May, featured as one of 27 outstanding South Africans in the book "Remarkable South Africans", written by Line Hadsbjerg.

2005, Paul Harris Award [Highest award from Rotary]

2006- 13 Sep, Gandhi Development Trust Occasional Satyagraha Award

2008- 28 Nov, South African Medical Association Excellence in Health Care Award

2015 - 15 Aug, LeadSA Inaugural Changemakers 2015 Award

2017 - 06 Dec, Gift of the Givers was selected both by corporates and NGOs as the number one NPO in South Africa.

2007 - 20 Sep, Honorary Doctorate in Health Sciences awarded to Dr Imtiaz Sooliman from Tshwane University of Technology

#### Parliament

2010 - 11 Feb, President Zuma, in his State of the Nation address in Parliament, singles out Gift of the Givers for their response to Disasters in general and to the Haiti Earthquake specifically.

2011- 16 Aug, Motion of Congratulations from Parliament of South Africa for the Somalia Relief Mission.

2013 - 22 Feb, Parliament of South Africa approves a motion for the South African Post Office to print a Limited-Edition Commemorative Stamp in honour of Gift of the Givers

2013 - 31 May, Motion of Congratulations from Parliament of South Africa for work being done in Syria.

2015 – 05 May, Parliament passes a Motion of Congratulations for Gift of the Givers work in Nepal

2015 – 06 May, Parliament of South Africa passes a Motion of National Assembly for the second time noting Gift of the Givers work in Syria.

2016 – 23 Feb, Parliament passed a unanimous Motion of Commendation for Gift of the Givers Drought Relief Campaign in South Africa

2016 – 24 Feb, Minister of Finance, Mr Pravin Gordhan, in his budget speech complemented Gift of the Givers for their Drought Relief Campaign.

#### International

1994, Outstanding Service to Mostar (Bosnia) Award

2005, Pakistan – South Africa Friendship Award

2005, Award from Pakistan Military for Pakistan Earthquake

2006, Afro-Asian Award for Pakistan Earthquake

2006, Award from Gujarat City and Pakistan Muslim League for Pakistan Earthquake

2010 - (23 Sep), International Lawyers Forum Award for Dr Sooliman's visit regarding relief operation for flood affected in Pakistan

2008 - (28 Aug), HIV/Aids Service Delivery Award, GOTG Malawi

2008, Diversity Leader Award, Malawi

2010, Club Maritimo 100 Year Medal for Portugal Flood.

2011, Award from Sheikh Yusuf al Qardawi for service to Palestine

2016 – (11 Nov), Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, has been awarded the prestigious Global Citizen Award by the international citizenship advisory firm Henley & Partners.

#### Publications

2011 (04 May), Dr Sooliman listed among South Africa's 10 Heroes who contributed to the public life in 2011 by the Independent Group.

2013-(04 Oct), Writer Donna Rachelson featured GOTG in her book "Branding & Marketing You Through TEAMS"

, Featured in a book "Imtiaz Sooliman and Gift of the Givers A Mercy to All" by Shafiq Morton

2018 – (30 Jan), Gift of the Givers is featured in the book "Win! Compelling Conversations with 20 Successful South Africans" by Jeremy Maggs.

2019 – Aug), Imtiaz Sooliman wins Radio 702's For Good Icon of the first 25 years of democracy award.

2021 - Dec, Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, named the Daily Maverick's 'South African Person of the Year 2021', in recognition of the outstanding work the organisation has undertaken in helping people both here and around the world.

Our valued Corporate Partners include:







TIGER BRANDS



## **Champions:**

The achievements and success of such selfless organisations or individuals contributes appreciably to the greater good of our society. Their influence and concern for others gives meaningful effect to the ongoing endeavours of charitable organisations, such as ours

The Gift of the Givers is, therefore, grateful for and fortunate to enjoy the benefit of fund-raising campaigns undertaken by our Champions!

Fund-raising events are regarded as an ideal way for donors to become involved, whilst affording them the peace-of-mind that their efforts are, indeed, funding legitimate and approved projects by an organisation with a history of delivery. We are pleased to be able to highlight here such fund-raising events, as they unfold, ensuring fundraisers receive the accolades they so richly deserve for their good works, whilst simultaneously enabling them to substantiate for donors the authenticity of their campaigns and the destination of funds so raised.

To learn more about becoming a Gift of the Givers fund-raiser, please email us at:  
[partners@giftofthegivers.org](mailto:partners@giftofthegivers.org)

# VOLUNTEER

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Gift of the Givers volunteer database comprises medical, search and rescue and psycho-social personnel. Those who fit into one of these categories, and wish to be added to the database, may download the form below and submit to [volunteer@giftofthegivers.org](mailto:volunteer@giftofthegivers.org).

## Contact Us page:

The assistance Gift of the Givers provides is purely humanitarian and unconditional. Ours is a fully transparent organisation, designed to assist in emergency situations, irrespective of race, religion, colour, class, political affiliation, or geographic boundary. We are entirely neutral in our approach to those in need, are non-judgemental and have an open-minded approach to every situation.

We invite you to contact us should you be aware of a dire emergency, want more information about our work, or wish to become a once-off, or regular donor.

South Africa

SA - NATIONAL CALL CENTRE Toll Free Number: 0800 786 911 or Email:  
[>info@giftofthegivers.org](mailto:>info@giftofthegivers.org)

Pietermaritzburg

290 Prince Alfred Street

Lenasia

196 Rose Avenue, Ext 5

Johannesburg

1188 Beitel Road, Robertville

Cape Town

4 Aarbeidsweg, Penlyn Estate, Cape Town.

East London

8 Schoof Street, Wilsonia

Somalia

South Somalia Regional Office

Taleeh Suburb in Hodan District

Mogadishu

Banadir Region

Palestine

Gaza

GOTG Centre for Child-Women Care

Nelson Mandela Street

Shaaf Region

Gaza

West Bank

Third floor, Palestine Trade Mall

Al-Balou, Al-Bireh

Ramallah

Yemen

San'aa

Alsaeed Building 4th Floor  
Alzubairi Street  
Sana'a

Aden

Al Mouala Daka  
Behind Haeel  
Aden

Zimbabwe

Harare

60 Argyle Road  
Avondale  
Harare

Malawi

Blantyre

Plot No. CC 893  
Off Masauko Chipembere Highway  
Maselema Light Industrial Area  
Blantyre

Syria

Damascus

Saba'a Bharat Square

AbdeRahman Ashahbandar - Main Road

Pakistan Street

Contact Us

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

## **Homepage**

*"Gift of the Givers is Africa's largest disaster response NGO, serving humanity since 1992. With aid delivered across 47 countries, we bring hope, dignity, and relief to vulnerable communities in times of crisis. Join us in making a difference today."*

-  Purpose: Introduces the organisation immediately and inspires visitors to explore or donate.

## **About Us Page**

*"Founded by Dr. Imtiaz Sooliman, Gift of the Givers has grown into a global humanitarian force. Our mission is to respond swiftly to disasters, alleviate hunger, and provide essential healthcare and education support. Guided by compassion and integrity, we believe in serving all people, regardless of race, religion, or nationality."*

-  Purpose: Shares history, mission, and vision to build trust.

## **Contact Us Page**

*"We're here to help. Whether you want to donate, volunteer, or simply learn more about our projects, our team is ready to connect with you. Reach out to us through our offices nationwide or send us a message directly online."*

-  Purpose: Encourages direct communication and builds accessibility.

## Partners Page

*"Our impact is made possible through the support of dedicated partners — from local communities to global organisations. Together, we create sustainable change and ensure aid reaches those who need it most. Interested in joining us as a partner? Let's make a difference, side by side."*

-  Purpose: Acknowledges existing partners and invites new collaborations.

### Videos:

```
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gyroscope; picture-in-picture; web-share" referrerpolicy="strict-
origin-when-cross-origin" allowfullscreen></iframe>
```

