



# MATW ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT REPORT 2019



# TRUSTED PARTNERSHIPS



## Australian National Council of Imams (ANIC)

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In early 2019, MATW Project had the honour and privilege of being endorsed by ANIC. As a result, a promising partnership was established in support of our charitable projects. Together with the support and guidance of ANIC's knowledgeable and reputable leaders, MATW Project aims to continue being at the forefront of providing dawah support services and assistance to communities throughout West Africa.



## Al Firdaus College (AFC)

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MATW and AFC announced an exciting new partnership to deliver a mentoring programme aimed at engaging and developing Australian Muslim youth into strong, inspirational, upstanding future leaders in support of local community objectives.



## United Muslims of Australia (UMA)

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MATW recently teamed up with the UMA Centre in support of our Ramadan Zakat projects. Together, we are determined to continue assisting those in need through the fulfilment and advancement of our Islamic obligations both as partners and within the Community.



## Gift a Smile (GAS)

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In May 2019, MATW Project and Gift a Smile formed a meaningful new partnership with the intention to provide care and support to local child cancer patients and their families. The purpose of this initiative resonates deeply within the team and organisation after losing our dear brother and MATW founder, Ali Banat, to cancer.



# 2019 PROJECTS



# EMERGENCY RELIEF

## Burkina Faso

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In February 2019 MATW embarked on a mission to provide emergency assistance to displaced communities in Burkina Faso. MATW provided food, shelter and support to communities in dire need of essential aid. Through the delivery of this project and as part of our sustainability model, MATW has been able to provide employment opportunities for affected villagers. Providing affected locals with employment assists in breaking the poverty cycle by allowing them to care for their families and ultimately afford a better quality of life.

In response to the Covid- 19 pandemic, further emergency assistance has been instated at our Burkina Faso orphanage and surrounding villages to provide medical resources and supplies to safeguard the community against infection.



## New Zealand (Christchurch)

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In response to the Christchurch terror attack which shook the world and devastated the Christchurch Community, MATW launched an emergency fundraiser. Approximately \$200 000 (AUD) was raised by our generous local and international MATW Community in support of those affected by the attack. Our MATW CEO Mahmoud Ismail, together with our brother Sonny Bill Williams, visited the families and distributed the proceeds that were raised.

# RAMADAN & QURBAN



## Ramadan Food Distribution

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On the 01st of May 2019, MATW Project launched its Annual Ramadan Campaign in order to raise funds to feed and support impoverished communities in Togo, Burkina Faso and Benin in West Africa and Lebanon. These locations present a significant need for assistance and resources as they face ongoing, extreme poverty. All funds raised were used to source and produce food packs and hot, nutritious meals which were distributed in various locations such as Kpoga, Tsevie, Zooti, Gape, Danny, Kara, Blta, Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo in West Africa, as well as Tripoli, Lebanon.

Over 600, 000 poverty-stricken families and individuals (including widows and orphans) were provided with nutritious meals and food packs throughout the 29day project period with an average of 29,750 per day as a result. Our Ramadan projects also catered for Eid gifts distributed to all our MATW orphans and local children.

Our Annual Ramadan Project 2019 was successfully concluded with food packs being distributed on Eid-ul- Fitr to thousands of local villagers arriving on foot to collect their much-needed share.

## Qurban Distribution

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MATW experienced yet another successful Qurban Appeal in 2019. Thanks to the generosity and support of our loyal donors, MATW was able to distribute meat packages throughout poverty-stricken communities in West Africa. Thousands of beneficiaries were given the opportunity to enjoy the luxury of meat, we are hoping to reach higher number of beneficiaries for Qurban 2020, InshaAllah!





# CONSTRUCTION & RESOURCE ADVANCEMENTS

## Community and Education Centres

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Construction of the first-ever Islamic University Education Centre in Togo, Africa is well on its way with stage 1 completed and stage 2 in progress. Stage 1 has seen the completion of the first level, fully equipped with lecture theatres, a faculty board room and student hall area. The second floor comprising of additional lecture theatres as well as residential quarters for students and staff is currently in progress. This project provides our MATW orphans and poverty-stricken African children with hope for a brighter future through the opportunity of gaining an education. Our MATW donors continue to give them hope through their generosity and care.

By November 2019, MATW had opened the doors of its 22nd Masjid Community Centre for the year. Through the generosity and support of our donors, hundreds of communities now have a place to pray and congregate for Ramadan and other special occasions.



## Abattoir

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With an ever-increasing need for meat throughout the poverty-stricken communities we serve, MATW has established a larger abattoir facility for the processing of Qurban and animal sacrifices. The new facility promotes a faster turnaround time, meaning we are able to get our donors meat donations to beneficiaries even faster than before. The larger abattoir will be particularly useful during our Qurban campaign for Eid-ul Adha, ensuring that all our donors' Qurban donations are expedited efficiently and without delay in line with the MATW way.

## Orphan Housing

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### Burkina Faso

In March MATW commenced construction of stage 1 of our Burkina Faso Orphan Centre aimed at providing shelter, safety and care to MATW orphan children. By December stage 1 was successfully completed and the Centre is now home to 80 orphan children in anticipation of hundreds more upon completion.

### Zooti Centre

In early 2019, the Zooti Centre Project was completed, fully equipped with a medical centre as well as its very own school and prayer hall. It currently houses more than 150 orphans providing them with food, shelter, care and an education.

A sustainable agricultural farm, playground and outdoor cinema were added to further enhance the Centre.

### Kpoga Centre

Stages 1 and 2 of our Kpoga beach village Centre have been successfully completed thanks to the ongoing support and generosity of our loyal donors. The resident orphans, widows and staff now have a place to call home as well as a large communal area to gather in. The Kpoga communal area is being used as a food hall, fully equipped with hand washing and sanitising facilities which has proven incredibly useful during the Covid pandemic and during the month of Ramadan.

Our 600+ resident orphans no longer have to break their fast on the cold, hard gravel floor in extreme weather conditions and are enjoying the atmosphere and opportunities that came with it.



## Community Ambulance

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After identifying a significant need for ambulance services and emergency patient transportation from rural villages to medical facilities in Togo, MATW purchased two fully equipped ambulances as part of our health care and medical aid projects. The ambulances have been used for transporting patients and when not in use it serves as a means of transporting essential items for distribution in rural locations.



# ORPHANS

This year has been an exciting and adventurous year for our MATW orphans and supporters.

## Zooti

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We celebrated the completion of the Zooti Orphan Centre which is now home to over 150 precious orphan children. The centre is equipped with a masjid and school, along with a medical centre, newly developed playground and agricultural farm, and an outdoor cinema area.

## Kpoga

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The second stage of our Kpoga Orphan Centre was completed in March allowing for the accommodation and complete care of 700+ orphan children. Over 600 orphan children now call Kpoga Orphan Centre home, where they receive care, shelter and an education for a more promising future. To celebrate their arrival and new -found home, the orphans were given a surprise fun day and movie night as a welcome treat. In December the Kpoga orphans were surprised with special equipment and fun toys upon the arrival of an MATW resource container.



## School Food Project

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2019 also saw the launch of MATW's School Food Project which feeds 2000+ students across various African communities in Togo, Burkina Faso and Ghana, with over 700 students being fed daily in Tsevie village alone.



# LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Sydney Container Drive

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In March, thanks to the generous support of our awesome Sydney donors, our MATW Community in Africa were surprised with a container full of much needed medical supplies, clothes, food and essentials.

## Quest for Success Event

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Our team along with our MATW mascot, Mali were delighted to attend the annual Quest for Success event held in Sydney at the end of March where we were met with a warm welcome by many who continue to be inspired by brother Ali Banat's journey and message.

## Live Fundraiser

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On the 25th of May 2019, one year after the passing of Ali Banat, MATW hosted its first-ever Live Fundraising Event, where hosts Ahmed Bassal and Steve Dabliz engaged with the audience and guests in aid of fundraising. We were honoured to host guests like respected Sheikhs Shady Al Sulaiman and Abu Bakr Zoud, Ali Banat's mother and family members and MATW team members and CEO, who all paid tribute to Ali Banat and the legacy he entrusted us with.

The success of the live event contributed significantly to the successful construction of stages 1 and 2 of our Kpoga beach village Orphan Centre, as well as stage 1 of our Islamic University Education Centre.

## Eid Festival

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In June 2019, MATW celebrated Eid ul Adha as a major sponsor and partner of the MATW International Eid Festival in Liverpool. We were honoured by the attendance of honoured guest, Mufti Ismail Menk and a large turnout of support from the local community. We were joined and supported by our wonderful partner team from Gift a Smile, as well as being blessed with the help of our young and dedicated volunteers from Unity Grammar College. The event was deemed a huge success, bringing the community together in light of Eid festivities which saw many new and old donors generously contribute to our worthy projects.

## Gift a Smile

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In July 2019, MATW joined Gift a Smile to celebrate the reaching of a significant milestone in the life of a young cancer hero and survivor, Omar, who had been fighting cancer for two years before being deemed cancer free. Omar was treated to a surprise party where he "rang the bell" to mark the success of his treatment and perseverance. Gift a Smile provided an amazing spread and toys were distributed to all the young patients in the ward. This was a particularly emotional day for the team as we remembered our brother Ali Banat's battle with cancer and a welcomed achievement for little Omar.

# FUNDRAISING ACHIEVEMENTS



Essential Equipment and Resources

## MATW Nutrition Campaign Turn 10 to 1000

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In September, MATW launched a campaign focusing on promoting healthy eating and eliminating poverty through balanced diets and providing sustenance throughout impoverished African villages.

MATW Ambassador along with much loved local comedian and celebrity, Steve Dabliz visited Togo Africa to carry out this project where they distributed donations and raised awareness about the dire conditions impoverished communities live in and face daily.



## Water for Good Campaign

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In August, MATW launched a campaign aimed at raising funds to provide access to clean water to poverty-stricken communities. The campaign was met with success with 240 basic water wells being built in various West African locations thanks to the ongoing support of our loyal donors.

## Orphan Centre Laundry Campaign

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In response to Steve and Ahmed's visit to MATW projects in West Africa, a significant need for laundry equipment and industrial washing machines was identified. As a result, MATW launched a fundraising campaign which raised \$10,000 AUD in just a few days, thanks to the generous support of our donors. The proceeds facilitated the purchase of two large industrial washing machines and laundry equipment which is used daily to wash the clothes of 600+ orphan children at Kpoga Orphan Centre daily.



# EDUCATION & SUPPORT SERVICES

In April 2019, MATW hosted its first annual Quran recitation competition in Togo where young students were awarded bicycles for learning and participating.

In May, two of our very own orphans, Nouredine and Taufik, were appointed as leaders (Imams) of the MATW Kpoga beach village masjid. This achievement highlights the success of MATW's orphan care and education program as these orphans were of the first children to make MATW orphan centre their home when Ali Banat founded MATW Project.

By July 2019, MATW had successfully provided dawah support services resulting in 120+ villages turning to Islam in search of a better life and future.

## International Recognition

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MATW made news headlines in recognition of its MATW's contribution to communities in west Africa, highlighting that it has remained true to its mission regardless of the religious beliefs of those they serve.



*Thank you*

...and may Allah reward you!



[matwproject.org](http://matwproject.org)