

The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

Refugee Biriyani & Bananas

#6SXZKZBCZZ submitted on 1 August 2023

1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us

We are seeking support to implement our programme aimed at empowering community youth with experience of forced displacement through capacity training and employment for participation in humanitarian aid, management, and leadership. Specifically, we are seeking £5000 towards the training materials, protective clothing, driving lessons and external training for the CHLP participants.

1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative

We support over 1,000 people who are refugees and asylee seekers every month through a myriad of person-centered support programmes that are implemented to improve the immediate and long-term circumstances of those with a severely diminished quality of life. At a time when declining media attention and a lack of general public awareness has led many to believe the 'Greek Refugee Crisis' is over, RBB has consistently worked to generate innovative solutions to the most critical challenges currently faced by people, particularly youths, with lived experience of displacement. We recognise that, as a small, grassroots organisation, we are unable to address food insecurity or provide pathways to employment for every refugee in our impact zone. One way in which we maximise the impact of our efforts and amplify the positive outcomes for the individuals we currently provide support for is through our Community Humanitarian Leaders Programme (CHLP).

The CHLP is an investment in people with lived experience of forced displacement, especially youth populations under the age of 25, and their education, salaries, social security, upskilling, and training. We aim to provide people with knowledge, training and the expertise in a range of hard and soft skills that will enable them to do humanitarian work efficiently, safely and with meaningful impact. All training and skills developed through the programme will be transferable, and thus can be useful for alternative employment opportunities they may seek in the future. The participants are involved in a range of activities including: field work, completing online modules and tests, written exercises, physical tasks and presentations to demonstrate learning, understanding and development, eventually taking leadership roles within RBB. The training is delivered via a range of methods: face to face educational group sessions, online training, formal courses, in field training, and 1-2-1 sessions with a mentor. Compulsory training modules are designed to impart universal humanitarian leadership methodologies that strengthen participants' employability, and are supplemented by discretionary training sessions and self-learning opportunities that allow participants to pursue career development objectives that align with both their individual interests and organisation-specific needs.

RBB has provided informal field training for volunteers for the past 8 years, and thus the CHLP operates, in part, as an upscaling of previous programmatic efforts that were directed at building sustainable livelihoods, increasing community resilience, and reducing barriers to inclusion in leadership positions and decision-making roles within humanitarian organisations. Our approach emphasises community empowerment and personal dignity, and our programme seeks to achieve this in a uniquely holistic manner. The CHLP provides a solution to the lack of inclusion on a wider more structured scale, whilst also addressing a critical challenge facing many grassroots organisations. Namely, the struggle for sustainability that results from organisations' inability to invest in long-term salaried staff members due to a lack of funds. This results in an overreliance on contract roles, often filled by staff that are unfamiliar with the specific context, which is neither efficient nor productive in the long term. As a necessary corrective to this problem, the CHLP represents an opportunity to provide

contextually adapted livelihood support in a manner that directly strengthens the humanitarian infrastructure in the community by harnessing the wisdom and expertise of those with lived experience.

One positive example from this initiative has been Abdeliah; a Syrian refugee who first began volunteering with RBB when he arrived at the camp in Northern Greece in 2016. Throughout his journey, we have supported him with ongoing training, education and mentorship, equipping him with more knowledge and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of NGO management. He has now become a member on our Board of Trustees.

1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

E - Work with forced migrants, including internally displaced people

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1.4 Which country is the project based in?

Greece (GR)

1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

Yes

1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended

Our long-term partnership with In-Sight Collaboration and Velos Youth lay testimony to the sustainability of the CHLP once support from the Edith M Ellis Trust has been completed. The continued support from our other donors will also contribute to ensuring the financial stability of the programme and wider organisation. More importantly, we have a proven track record of running projects for the past 8 years with a clear communication and fundraising strategy.

1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

A mix of qualitative and quantitative indicators will be devised to assess learning, understanding, success, and efficacy of the programme at baseline, mid programme and post programme intervals. This includes a likert scale style-questionnaire and interviews. The results of our evaluation and monitoring practices will be made publicly available in our newsletter, annual report, on our website and to our supporters, donors, partners and relevant stakeholders.

2.1 Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Personal Protective Equipment & Learning Equipment (Stationary, Books, Technology)	£2,235	Cost for 4 Participants/Year
External Training Opportunities (Driving Lessons etc)	£6,535	Cost for 4 Participants/Year
Travel & Accommodation	£5,160	Cost for 4 Participants/Year
Rent for Dedicated Study Space	£3,100	Cost for 4 Participants/Year
Salaries	£67,435	Cost for 4 Participants/Year
TOTALS	£84,465	

2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
	£0	£0	
	£0	£0	
TOTALS	£0	£0	

2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£5,000

2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

No

2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£210,951

2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

Yes

2.6b Upload File

https://theedithmellischaritabletrust.org/assets/uploads/2023/08/RBB_Annual-and-Financial-Report-2021-2022_.pdf

2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

Refugee Biriyani & Bananas

67200953

CPBKGB22 / 089299

3.1 Your name

Ruhi Akhtar

3.2 Your contact telephone number

+447984181736

3.3 Your position within the organisation

Founder

3.4 Your email address

fundraising@refugeebiriyanibananas.org

3.5 Organisation name

Refugee Biriyani & Bananas

3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

UK charity

3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

Our purpose is to: Deliver impact-oriented humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable in refugee and IDP camps and other unstable settlements; Provide capacity-building resources for local organisations that understand the context and have a proven ability to secure positive outcomes in complex environments; Identify and highlight key human rights trends and emerging issues encountered by refugees; and Empower local populations and those with lived experience of displacement to work towards sustainable solutions to systemic issues

3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation

52 Clifton Road
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE4 8DQ

3.9 UK telephone number

+447984181736

3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)

1189561

3.11 Year established

2020

3.12 Website (if applicable)

<http://www.refugeebiryanibananas.org>

3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)

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4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?

theedithmellischaritabletrust.org

Charity Commission website

Word of mouth