



MOTIVATION APPEAL FOR FUNDING

Our Vision

Every Deaf person is to be empowered, has the opportunity to integrate into society and achieve their fullest potential and participate in and contribute to all aspects of life.

Our Mission

Al-Waagah works to advocate on behalf of the Deaf to enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families by strengthening and integration of communities thereby eliminating barriers to opportunity, and supporting the Deaf and to reach their full potential and purpose in life.

Our Need

The need for education and support services have now reached a level where the current facilities at AL-Waagah are becoming inadequate. Coupled with this is the aim to build greater awareness around the rights of the Deaf and to mainstream sign language. We would therefore like to establish an all-inclusive school that offers education for both hearing and Deaf children. The model is based on the belief that placing children in the same space with others, who do not have disabilities, provides them with equal access to learning opportunities. It also increases the awareness and practice of sign language, helping to shift the narrative from the margins to mainstream. Even though the idea has been discussed on the level of the National Department of Education, thus far no initiative has taken up the challenge to put these ideas into practice. AL-Waagah therefore plans to be the first organization to develop the idea of an all-inclusive school, thereby pioneering a much-needed facility within the context of greater equality for our Deaf community.

Our Solution

Al-Waagah has currently raised enough funds to put down a deposit on a building in the neighbourhood of Bridgetown in the Western Cape, approximately 10km from the City Centre of Cape Town and in close proximity to some of the most marginalized communities known as the Cape Flats.

Our Goal

We have 60 days to pay the outstanding balance.

Our target: 7000 sqm / Our deadline: 30 July 2021

R1000 donation can help us buy 1 (one) sqm of school

Please refer to attached proposal for more detail. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require more information.

Sincerely,

Farinaaz Samaai
Treasurer/Fundraiser
0828029274



AL-WAAGAH
INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

NPO: 062-742



FUNDING PROPOSAL 2021

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we had.” - Nelson Mandela

All-Inclusive School

Executive Summary

South Africa's Deaf community currently stands at four million people and counts for approximately 6% of the country's population. While many advances have been made in terms of recognizing the rights of Deaf people, much of these changes have only reached the level of policy development with poor implementation. As a result, many Deaf people continue to live in isolated worlds and their struggles are silenced due to the lack of resources available to meet their needs. This is especially pronounced in impoverished neighborhoods where basic needs such as schooling for the Deaf is largely compromised.

The South African Human Sciences Research Council recently published a report on the education throughput of young learners who are Deaf and hard of hearing. Accordingly, they account for 5% of the country's school population but school attendance has been noticed to drop significantly especially in the early stages of their education journey. In many cases, the identification of impaired hearing in a child takes place at such a late stage that they have already become disillusioned and dropped out of school with large gaps in their learning process that are always difficult to repair. As a result, they are prevented from achieving their best potential and are often dependent on others for socio-economic support.

This is one of the reasons why Al-Waagah Institute for the Deaf was established, to try and fill the gaps that are left in the development and support needed to help Deaf individuals overcome barriers to achieving their full potential. While there are approximately 43 schools across the country for Deaf and hard of hearing learners, few have the capacity to provide comprehensive support especially in impoverished neighborhoods. The Al-Waagah Institute for the Deaf is therefore a home and a family for those who have fallen through the gaps of policy implementation for Deaf people. Irrespective of religion, the Institute welcomes people from all backgrounds and nationalities to benefit from a variety of support services offered. Initially focused on religious education, we found that beneficiaries benefitted from the opportunity to interact with each other in sign language, which is not understood by many people within their home environments. Apart from their need for more meaningful social interaction, Al-Waagah also assists with legal services, applying for social grants, support for individuals from other African countries, and poverty alleviation interventions.

Being an education institute, essentially, Al-Waagah has nurtured the idea of establishing a school that would cater not only for the education needs of Deaf learners but also for their social and personal wellbeing. The idea of an all-inclusive school is that the Deaf are no longer marginalized or only confined to special schools. An all-inclusive school would admit both hearing and Deaf learners, with the aim of empowering more people to communicate in sign language and to mainstreaming the Deaf community. In this regard, the school is a "game-changer" in reimagining basic education systems and the future of holistic, inclusive learning.

Our aims and objective for the building:

- To provide an all-inclusive secular education by providing a school to the Deaf and the general public as defined in the South African Schools Act, 1996, (Act No. 84 of 1996).
- To provide 'Adult basic education and training', as defined in the Adult Basic Education and Training Act, 2000 (Act No.52 of 2000), including literacy and numeracy education.
- Training of unemployed persons with the purpose of enabling them to obtain employment.
- The provision of bridging courses to enable educationally disadvantaged persons to enter a higher education institution.
- The provision of Educare or early childhood development services for pre-school children.
- The provision of hostel accommodation to students of a public benefit organisation.
- To empower and assist with the social integration of the Deaf and the general public into mainstream society.
- To be a secular school inclusive of any and all religions.
- To establish and promote sign language for the Deaf in particular and society in general.

2 Gleemor Road, Belgravia Estate, Athlone, Cape Town, South Africa
+ 27 21 638 3368 administrator@alwaagah.co.za

NPO: 062-742 Income Tax No: 9099014244 PBO No: 930061725

With this proposal, we invite donors to consider partnering with us in financing this essential School for the Deaf through once-off donations or regular monthly contributions. The project also bears naming opportunities for individuals, families, trusts, and organizations to name a classroom, a hall, or housing unit. We trust that you will favorably consider standing with us in building a more inclusive space for our Deaf community in the Western Cape of South Africa.

Funding required

We have currently raised sufficient funds to put down a deposit on a building in the neighborhood of Bridgetown in the Western Cape, approximately 10km from the city centre of Cape Town and in close proximity to some of the most marginalized communities known as the Cape Flats. We would now like to proceed with purchasing of the building.

Our target: 7000 sqm
Our deadline: 30 July 2021

RI000 donation can help us buy 1 (one) sqm of school

Project Operation

The new Al-Waagah Institute will have greater access to social services and networks to provide comprehensive care and to reach a larger part of the community. This includes adequate space for lawyers, doctors, social workers who beneficiaries need to interact with on a regular basis. The current Board and Staff contingent will be responsible for running the Institute, with a larger number of volunteers from the community. This is especially with regards to the regular maintenance and upkeep of the facility.

We invite potential donors to consider investing in the Al-Waagah All-Inclusive School, as a means of demonstrating solidarity with our Deaf community who have for far too long been marginalized and isolated from mainstream social services. Donations to the project are welcome on various levels:

- 1) Once-off donations from multiple donors that cumulatively help us reach our funding goal
- 2) Regular monthly donations
- 3) Larger donations that allow for a donor to take up naming opportunities on a classroom, hall, or housing unit within the facility.

Al-Waagah is a registered Non-Profit Organization (NPO 062-742).

Banking details

Standard Bank
Cheque Account
Branch code : 024909
Account number : 071270957
IBAN/ Swift code : SBZAZAJJ
Reference : SCHOOL

Contact

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Beneficiaries

Al-Waagah has, to date, served well over 200 members of our deaf community, helping them find a sense of value and inclusion. These are just a few stories that bear testimony to the work we do and the impact that the project has created:



Gabeba Jacobs, aged 90, has been attending religious instruction classes for the past 24 years. She is married, with a family of seven children. Al-Waagah has been a significant means of support in terms of empowering her family with sign language such that they are able to communicate in an optimal manner.

Riezqah Heyns was the only one of our youth who matriculated in 2019. Due to resource shortages at her regular school, Riezqah struggled to keep up with the curriculum but support from Al-Waagah enabled her to achieve this great milestone of successfully completing her school career.



Yusrah Galant is one of our students who grew up under impoverished conditions but due to her association with Al-Waagah she managed to find resources to fund her Bachelor of Technology degree. She serves on the Al-Waagah youth committee and assists with teaching the Sunday religious education class.

Azrah Cassiem (left) is both Blind and Deaf, while Aneeqah Banthem (right) is Deaf. They are both members of Al-Waagah. In order to help Azrah understand and communicate, Aneeqah follows the sign language interpreter and relays the message via sign language into the hand of Azrah. These are the lengths we go to, in order to make sure that everyone is included.

