

PARTNERSHIP



SUMMER 2012

CRISIS MOVES WEST

*DROUGHT SWEEPS
ACROSS AFRICA*

ALSO INSIDE:

HELPING AT HOME | RELIEF FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES



ABOVE: A guest at Day of Dignity in Dallas, TX, enjoys a sunny day and some useful gifts to take with him.



Assalaamu Alaikum == PEACE UNTO ALL OF YOU ==

Since Islamic Relief's beginning, our name has been synonymous with international relief. Bosnia. Ethiopia. Palestine. Chechnya. Pakistan. We've worked through the years to provide relief around the world.

Over the past year—as we sent aid to starving children in Somalia, to impoverished families in Egypt and Palestine, to flood-damaged villages in Pakistan and to refugees from Syria—we've also placed new emphasis on providing aid in one more country: The United States.

A lot of people are surprised to hear that there are people in great need in America. But 50 million people live in poverty here, including 17 million children. And as the poor economy lingers and the number of people affected rises, the aid available to help is shrinking.

It was our duty to step in.

According to Anas (may God be pleased with him), the Prophet Muhammad said, "He is not a true follower who eats to his satisfaction and sleeps comfortably at night while his neighbor goes hungry—and he is aware of it."

As Muslims, we have to help those in need—and it starts with our neighbors.

Islamic Relief USA has helped at home for years, but as the needs grow, we felt that we had to do more. So we began several new projects: A multi-city meal program for low-income children, a financial program to help families save money, and an emergency relief program to help during disasters.

At the same time, we continue to work hard to help people internationally as well. In the past year, Islamic Relief USA's generous donors sent emergency drought relief to East Africa and helped families get back on their feet in Egypt and Palestine. They helped rebuild homes

and lives in Pakistan, and sent warmth and food to freezing children in Afghanistan. They gave food, clothes, shelter assistance and more to refugees from Syria, who left everything behind to take their children to safety.

All told, in 2011, our donors helped millions of people in 34 countries around the world.

Throughout this work, we formed new partnerships to maximize our efficiency—partnerships with U.S. agencies, with officials in other countries and with international nongovernmental agencies like the World Health Organization.

But our most important partnership is with you—our donors and supporters throughout the United States.

Thank you for taking this journey with us.

Sincerely,

Abed Ayoub
Chief Executive Officer
Islamic Relief USA

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Photographs © Islamic Relief

ABOVE: A mother and child trek past crumbling buildings in Mogadishu, Somalia, during the famine of 2011.

RIGHT: Ambassador Attallah Shabazz – daughter of El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, also known as Malcolm X – speaks April 7 at Islamic Relief USA’s Spring Banquet in Washington, D.C. The evening was dedicated to raising awareness about the water crisis across Africa. Guests included representatives from nongovernmental and governmental organizations involved in humanitarian and development efforts. **BELOW:** President Barack Obama shakes hands with Islamic Relief USA CEO Abed Ayoub at the White House in December 2011.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS



“The Red Cross really benefits from our partnership with IRUSA. ... I don’t think we have any partner that’s any more dedicated and enthusiastic than IRUSA. ...”

“My deep thanks to you for all you bring to the partnership, and for all that you’ve done, and all that we’re going to do together in the future.”

– Jerry DiFrancisco, President of Humanitarian Services for the American Red Cross



President Barak Obama Recognizes Islamic Relief USA’s Work

At the 2012 National Prayer Breakfast, President Obama applauded Islamic Relief USA for its interfaith efforts to alleviate suffering of those in need, saying, “Since we’ve expanded and strengthened the White House faith-based initiative, we’ve partnered with Catholic Charities to help Americans who are struggling with poverty; worked with organizations like World Vision and American Jewish World Service and Islamic Relief to bring hope to those suffering around the world.”



IRUSA Becomes Signatory to Red Cross/Red Crescent Code of Conduct

Islamic Relief USA has become a signatory to the Code of Conduct of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent. Established by eight of the world’s largest disaster response agencies in 1994, the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent establishes principles of impartiality and neutrality in providing humanitarian assistance. Among other conditions, it requires signatories to provide “aid regardless of race, creed, or nationality of the recipients and without adverse distinction of any kind.” The Code of Conduct has 492 signatories around the world. “The code of conduct for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent goes hand in hand with the humanitarian mission of Islamic Relief USA,” said Abed Ayoub, CEO of Islamic Relief USA.

IRUSA receives consultative status at United Nations

Islamic Relief USA was among 139 organizations to receive the highest status that can be awarded to an NGO by the United Nations. The acknowledgement entails participation at international conferences convened by the United Nations, speaking at panel discussions, and contributing papers to the humanitarian community, among other privileges.

Islamic Relief USA CEO Appointed to State Department Group

Abed Ayoub, CEO of Islamic Relief USA, has been appointed to the U.S. State Department’s Religion and Foreign Policy Working Group to help inform U.S. policy. Along with the other members, Ayoub will take part in dialogue and provide input on relevant topics including the challenges and opportunities for partnership.

IRUSA CEO Abed Ayoub Re-Appointed to USAID Advisory Board

On May 4, Islamic Relief USA CEO Abed Ayoub was reappointed to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA) for a second two-year term. Ayoub served on the board during the last two years, paving the way for IRUSA to provide the Islamic perspective on global aid and development to the U.S. government. “We will not only continue to speak to the needs of those we serve around the world, but to also demonstrate that the Muslim community is playing a significant role in helping to alleviate poverty,” Ayoub said.

IRUSA Becomes Member of National Disaster Relief Agency

Islamic Relief USA’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) in May became a full voting member of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). VOAD allows organizations involved in disaster relief to share knowledge and resources, and to work together more effectively.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE
D.A.R.T.
—RESPONSE TEAM—

HELPING AT HOME

Last winter, Asma Attili decided to become a certified disaster responder. She trained with Islamic Relief and the Red Cross. She was ready to help wherever needed in the United States.

She didn't expect to be using her training just five months later—right in her home state of Texas.

When nearly a dozen tornadoes raged through Texas in early April, Islamic Relief USA's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)—including 21-year-old Asma—worked fast with the American Red Cross in Dallas to help tornado victims and their communities recover.

"Evidence of the tornadoes was everywhere," Asma said.

"I saw a row of three houses in this one neighborhood where the two outer houses were completely destroyed while the middle was left untouched." She was thankful she could help her fellow Texans.

Islamic Relief USA's disaster-relief team was formed in 2011, and more than 250 volunteers have completed their training in more than two dozen sessions in five states.

Islamic Relief USA's DART was one of the first group of workers to arrive on the scene in April when a distribution center in Lancaster, TX, opened to provide food, clothing and care. And a few days later, when the city closed the center doors, Islamic Relief teams were one of the last to leave.

Red Cross Mid-Atlantic Division Vice President Jim Starr praised IRUSA for mobilizing volunteers so quickly.

"It was really neat to see people from IRUSA in the field side by side with us and as a part of our disaster relief team and Red Cross team," he said. "It truly made a difference in meeting the needs of these communities. Thank you for your help."

Team member Rizwan Uqaili, said: "That's what communities are made of. Caring individuals who come together to assist those in need."

RIGHT: Islamic Relief USA's William Lea delivers rakes collected by DART team members in July 2012 to help with cleanup during the Colorado wildfires. The DART team mobilized to help make sure survivors received the food, water and other items they needed.



In 2011 and 2012, Islamic Relief USA's new DART team traveled to Alabama, New Jersey and Texas as well as Colorado to help their fellow Americans recover from natural disasters.

1. Tornado relief, Pratt City, AL
2. Hurricane relief, Holmdel, NJ
3. Tornado relief, Dallas, TX
4. Tornado relief, Dallas, TX

TO APPLY TO JOIN DART, VISIT WWW.IRUSA.ORG/DISASTERRESPONSE



FINANCIAL SAVINGS PROGRAM

for our neighbors in need

A Chance to Break the Cycle

For millions of Americans who were already living on the edge, the financial crisis has been a devastating shock.

Today, an estimated 26 million Americans do not own enough to survive at the poverty level for three months. More than 50 million Americans live in poverty—including 17 million children.

For people who don't have an education or specialized training, it's hard to see a way out.

"We just don't have a chance to get out of this cycle," says Fatima Ahmed.* She immigrated to the United States several years ago looking for more opportunities—a better life, the American Dream.

But that life was nowhere to be found. School programs were too expensive, and she couldn't find a job with an income so that she and her disabled son could live.

"If you don't have money and you don't have an education, you don't even have a chance," she said.

Islamic Relief USA and our donors and volunteers are working to help our neighbors here at home. One of them – a new financial saving and education program – is helping families find better opportunities.

Fatima started a beauty salon just for women. It offers hair, nails, skin care, henna designs and makeup tutorials. The tool that helped her start her business was an Individual Development Account, or IDA. IDA programs teach people how to save and handle their finances, and give them a boost with their savings. Participants work toward reaching a financial goal like starting a business, getting an education, or buying a home. When they complete their training and reach their savings goal, they receive a matching gift to give them an extra boost.

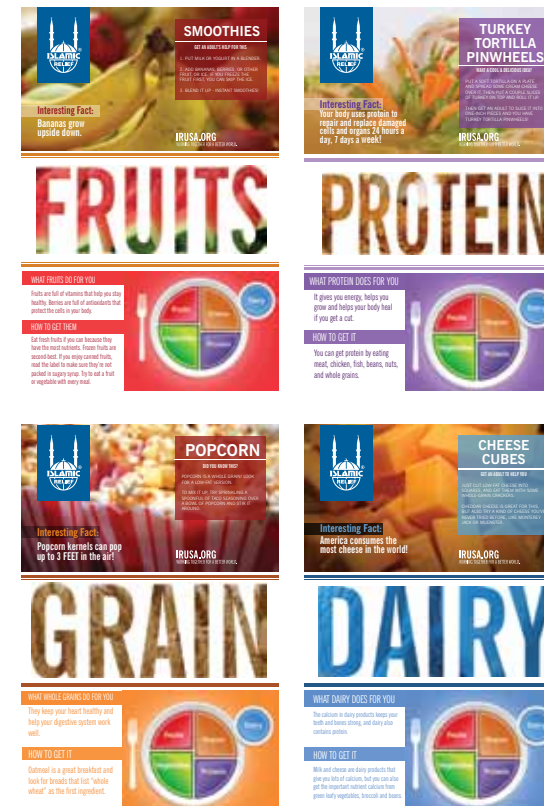
Islamic Relief USA recently began offering an IDA program like the one that helped Fatima.

As for Fatima, her in-home business is doing well, and she has regular clients.

"Now, I can take care of myself," she said. "It feels good."

**Name changed to protect privacy.*

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS



More new programs...

In 2011 and 2012, Islamic Relief USA launched several new programs to help our neighbors here in the United States.

In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, we began providing nutritious meals to low-income children, and a new food pantry is preparing to open in Washington, D.C. These initiatives help ensure that our neighbors can go to bed with a full stomach, and that nutritious food can fuel them as they go to school and work.

We also recently launched the Giving Grain food pantry in Washington, D.C., where residents can come and find food to take home to their families.



EAST AFRICA

{ ONE YEAR LATER }

In 2011, a deadly combination of lack of rain and rising food prices led to the worst drought East Africa had seen in more than 60 years—and the 21st century's first official famine.

With 13 million people affected in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, this was one of the biggest crises that the Islamic Relief family had ever faced, and we were horror-struck by what we witnessed.

We saw Abdul Ilahi, the boy who walked for 200 miles with his family to reach Mogadishu. We saw Aisha, who gave birth after reaching a refugee camp to a tiny baby boy who died just two weeks later—before he had even been named. We saw, and we responded. Islamic Relief teams in the area were working to provide relief before the famine was even declared. By six months later, with the help of your generous donations, Islamic Relief's worldwide teams had helped more than 1 million people.



ABOVE: Fatima recovers from chicken pox in Somalia. Weakened by malnutrition, many Somalis succumbed to common illnesses during the famine. **RIGHT:** We found 5-year-old Medina Nour malnourished and suffering from measles. Her parents traveled a long way to save her and her siblings.



THIS SPREAD: Families line up to receive food in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Islamic Relief's global family provided the following:

FOOD

Emergency food packages for 1 million people

WATER

Clean drinking water for 400,000 people, and 18 wells rehabilitated

HEALTH

3 clinics established treating over 45,000 people, and 10 tons of medicine provided

SPECIAL HELP FOR CHILDREN

11,000 malnourished children treated, and a new emergency unit constructed for children suffering diarrhea and cholera.

East Africa may no longer be in the media spotlight, but the Islamic Relief family is still providing major support. Not just emergency supplies, but long-term solutions too: new wells to provide clean water, support for farmers to get their livelihoods back, and schools to give children a future. In short, with your continued help, we're rebuilding lives.



Hope for two brothers



Abdirahman

At the Koorsan camp in Somalia, Abdirahman sat on his mother's lap, flushed with a high fever. Dr. Abdullahi Nour suspected pneumonia.

The Koorsan cluster of camps near Mogadishu's coast was one of the largest in the area, hosting more than 3,000 families in late 2011 when Abdirahman's family was there. After a summer of relentless drought and famine, disease spread quickly through the camp's residents—especially the children. Three children had died of measles just the day before. The camp clinic was struggling to keep up with all the patients' needs.

But, alhamdulillah, Islamic Relief donors helped support the clinic and provide life-saving support: Through additional funding, Islamic Relief was

able to provide more medicine and nursing staff. Dr. Nour was relieved he had medicine to give Abdirahman.

"Conditions are getting better," Dr. Nour said.

Islamic Relief also brought in water to the camp and the clinic on trucks, helping alleviate dehydration and improve hygiene.

Dr. Nour said, "We are very thankful for the help we've received—it is making a great difference."

As for the boys' mother, she was looking to the future. She was expecting a baby. She had decided that if it was a boy, his name would be Ridwan—after an Islamic Relief USA employee who had visited the camp to bring attention to the famine victims' stories.



Koorsan refugee camp



Abdirazik



Nurse Mariam



Dr. Abdullahi Nour

WEST AFRICA

CRISIS MOVES WEST

Last year, we saw devastating scenes of drought, starvation and death in East Africa. Now, the same could happen to children like Mustafa (RIGHT) in West Africa ... unless we act fast. This little boy in Niger reminds us all too much of the children who died last year. Time is running out.

To help, call 1.855.447.1001 or visit IRUSA.ORG



Bordered by the Red Sea on the east to the Atlantic Ocean on the west, the Sahel region is a belt that spans 1,000 km across Africa.

As of summer 2012, in the Sahel:

Grain production is **26%** lower than last year

Food is harder to find and prices are high

19 million people are facing food insecurity

More than **1 million children younger than 5** are at risk of severe acute malnutrition (United Nations)

Children living in these conditions are at risk of starving.



WATER

A glass half full in Niger

Reem El-Khatib, Islamic Relief USA communications specialist, wrote this first-hand account earlier this year from Niger, where she was visiting with an Islamic Relief UK team.

It is 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), and we still have several hours left in the day. We are speaking with community members in the Tilwa Yassi area of Ouallam district in Niger—beneficiaries of an Islamic Relief Worldwide water project—and it has been a very fulfilling day so far, alhamdulillah, but it is hot and there is still much work to do.

I need water. My throat is so dry, it hurts, and when I discover that no water bottles are left, I start to panic. I realize that I'm dehydrated, and I feel a bit faint. I have to do something so I don't collapse, so I take one of the plastic bags labeled "Table Water." But I don't know what kind of water is in that bag—is it untreated local water? Is it clean? Will it make me sick? I decide I'm going to risk a drink—I have to. I need water.

The water turns out to be fine, and I sigh with relief as I drink—this simple but vital element quenches my thirst and reassures me that I will be OK.

Water can tip the balance between death and life. Yet, access to clean, useable water is hard to come by for so many of our brothers and sisters around the world, including right here in Niger.

As I take my next sip, I say, "alhamdulillah," thanking Allah (swt) for my access to clean water—and for Islamic Relief donors who bring clean water to remote communities that need it.

"Alhamdulillah," Tilwa Yassi is no longer suffering from a lack of drinkable water. The people here are beneficiaries of a borehole—a deep-water well—that provides clean water for some 1,230 people in the village.

Islamic Relief Worldwide donors supported the construction and testing of this borehole and 13 others. Clean, pure, natural water can now be drawn by a foot pump.

"Before, we had to walk to a well that is 500 meters away," says Issaha Younoussa, the current manager of the Tilwa Yassi borehole. The women used to have to drag water up with a bucket and rope—back-breaking work.

"This borehole has a foot pump; the water is easy to access," he tells me as we stand in a garden nourished by the well's water.

Both the garden and the well have become Tilwa Yassi community projects. Community members are trained on how to monitor the well themselves, and a committee is elected every three years to take over that responsibility, in cooperation with the nation's Department of Water, which regularly verifies the functionality and cleanliness.

Water grows. Water cooks. Water cleans. Water builds too: The men in Tilwa Yassi use water to mold bricks out of sand to build their houses when they prepare for marriage. This was a daunting job when the water had to be carried in, bucket by bucket. Youmoussa Yassi, the 87-year old chief of the village, built his first home that way. Now the job is more manageable. Water streams through tradition—and it helps education flow: the chief's grandchild, Tahirou, 10, is studying Islam and Arabic in a school built by water-and-sand bricks.

Charitable donations have helped villages like Tilwa Yassi experience water security, and continue to build homes and schools, grow gardens, cook and drink during drier times—like now.

May we all remember the blessing of water when we take our next sip, our next bath or when we next tend to our gardens—"alhamdulillah."

"Fou fou" (thank you) from Niger!

SYRIA UPDATE

The man sitting in the refugee camp had one leg amputated, and then the other leg developed an infection. With no resources to go to a doctor, Ahmed* had cut off his own toe to try to stop the spread of infection.

Islamic Relief USA CEO Abed Ayoub met this man in May 2012 in a camp for Syrian refugees, known as Cyber City, on the outskirts of Al-Ramtha area near the border of Syria and Jordan.

On the same trip, he met with top Jordanian officials and NGO leaders, helping lead an effort to work together to get more medical relief to Syrian refugees.

As the conflict in Syria escalated, Islamic Relief USA and its international affiliates advocated for intervention to allow relief agencies to provide humanitarian aid to families in Syria. At the same time, our donors sent relief to Syrian refugees in desperate need of help in Lebanon and Jordan. Parents had left everything behind in search of safety for their children, and they could only depend on the generosity from others who cared to help. Islamic Relief USA's donors responded to their call. Refugees have received food and hygiene kits, fuel for cooking and warmth, and rent assistance for those who had nowhere to stay. And parents with babies received baby formula and diapers.

No person should have to lose a limb before they get the help they need. Islamic Relief is working to help refugees get the care they need—from food to lifesaving surgery.

** Name changed to protect privacy*



Islamic Relief USA has provided the following for Syrian refugees:

1. Food for refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. Packages include staples like rice, pasta, beans, powdered milk, cheese, oil and sugar
2. Hygiene kits for refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. Packages include soap, shampoo, detergent, toothpaste and facial tissues
3. Fuel for cooking for refugees in Jordan
4. Rent assistance for refugees in Jordan
5. Clothing for refugees in Lebanon
6. Urgent hospital care for refugees in Jordan



AFGHANISTAN



Last winter was a brutal one in Afghanistan, and not all families could escape the freezing cold. Some families displaced by conflict or the economy huddled in huts or tents around Kabul, forced to make a choice—buy fuel to burn for a little warmth, or buy food. When they chose food to stave off starvation for their children, sometimes the cold took the children instead. As temperatures dropped as low as 1 degree Fahrenheit, babies went to sleep and never woke up. More than two dozen Afghan children died.

Islamic Relief USA's donors responded quickly to appeals for help, sending money to buy fuel and food so 1,000 impoverished families could have both. Families received 200 pounds of coal, more than 100 pounds of flour and 22 pounds of rice, along with sugar and cooking oil. These simple provisions meant lifesaving warmth and full stomachs—and the strength to get through the rest of the winter.



When below-freezing temperatures hit, displaced families were unprepared for the cold.



TURKEY

Last fall, a 7.1-magnitude earthquake and a major aftershock struck hard in impoverished Van Province. More than 600 people were killed and thousands injured. Many survivors slept out in the streets because their homes were no longer habitable.

As cold weather closed in, Islamic Relief USA's donors sent relief for some of the youngest and most vulnerable people affected by the quake—children. More than 600 children and their families received winter clothing, food and hygiene kits. The children's daily food baskets nourished them with milk, juice, sandwiches, fruits and tahini bars. And the hygiene kits provided the items their entire families needed for dignity, from soap to toothbrushes to detergent and diapers.



Homes like this one were destroyed when a 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck Van Province in Turkey last fall.



LEFT: Women study tailoring before receiving new sewing machines to improve their livelihood.

PAKISTAN UPDATE

For Islamic Relief’s teams and donors, the past year has been one of rebuilding in Pakistan. After the 2010 floods left villages in shambles, Islamic Relief’s emergency relief programs gave way to reconstructing homes, infrastructure and hope.

At the same time, community development and health projects have continued in other areas of Pakistan. Throughout the country, a partnership with the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America has brought new awareness of how to prevent Hepatitis C, through seminars, walks, posters and a curriculum introduced into schools. This program leveraged relationships with some of the biggest health facilities in the country, including King Edwards Medical University and Fatima Jinnah Medical College.

Meanwhile, in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, our Community Livelihood Improvement Project continued providing vocational training for people struggling to earn a livelihood, such as advanced tailoring training for women like Kalsoom Bibi, who was forced to support her family after her husband became ill. More new drinking-water supply systems have been built, which frees girls to go to school instead of carrying water and enables families to start gardens for more nutritious food.

Work to date includes the following:

- Hundreds of strong brick homes built for families
- Four dozen water pumps repaired
- 6,000 feet of drainage constructed
- More than 700 latrines constructed
- Local leaders trained in water management
- Tens of thousands of patients treated at health camps and medical facilities
- Prenatal and postnatal care provided to women
- Children screened and treated for acute malnutrition
- Malaria diagnosis and treatment provided
- Livestock or small flocks of chickens given to more than 1,000 households
- Seeds, fertilizer and farming tools delivered to farmers and other families
- Four irrigation channels constructed
- Community organization established and local leaders trained

And dozens of new community organizations have been formed for both men and women, and local leaders have been trained so they can identify problems and work together to find their own solutions.

“I am very happy now, and I’m thankful to Islamic Relief for sponsoring advanced tailoring training to make me a skilled and valuable part of my family as well as community,” said Kalsoom Bibi, who is now earning more money with her advanced tailoring skills in a village in Bagh.

“InshaAllah, now I can provide an education for my children, and better shelter for my family.”

“I hope Islamic Relief and its donors will help other needy and poor people to earn a livelihood . . . because people need a more reliable source of income to come out of poverty.”

– Kalsoom Bibi



Fawzi (TOP RIGHT) and his son can build a better life in Palestine with the help of a new herd of sheep started by Islamic Relief USA donors.

PALESTINE



Salmi (TOP) and her grandchildren (TOP LEFT) live in a poor town in Egypt, where work is hard to come by. The family has found relief in food packages provided by Islamic Relief USA's donors.

EGYPT

The Islamic Relief family has been providing humanitarian relief in Palestine since 1994. Projects in the region have included food distribution, medical relief, small business loans and orphan sponsorship. Islamic Relief has also helped established educational enhancement centers, care programs for traumatized children and a school for the deaf.

We're giving people in Palestine the tools and resources to help themselves.

RECENT PROJECTS IN PALESTINE

Family sponsorship program

Food services, medication coverage and school supplies are provided to thousands of the neediest families in the West Bank, assisting some 23,000 individuals overall. More than 500 families received sheep to assist with income generation and nearly 1,000 beneficiaries were trained on animal breeding best practices. Greenhouses have also been set up for approximately 20 families to help them secure food year-round, and seven small businesses were established to help generate income for needy families.

Small-Business Loans for Women

Islamic Relief USA is helping 110 single mothers and widows build businesses so that they are better able to support themselves and their families. Loans allow the women to buy the materials they need to start up their businesses. Plus, they get training in their trades including bookkeeping, livestock care, sewing and better farming practices. And the loans we provide are interest-free and based on Islamic principles: business solutions you can believe in.

Better Schools for Children

Islamic Relief USA is rebuilding, renovating and expanding school facilities for more than 2,000 children and nearly 100 teachers living in poverty in the West Bank. A total of 26 classrooms will be built, plus exercise space and six educational facilities like science labs, and the physical infrastructure of two schools will be renovated so that the schools will be safer for the children.

YOU CAN HELP START A BUSINESS FOR A PALESTINIAN WOMAN IN NEED:

\$10,281

The economic instability that followed last year's political uprising in Egypt pushed many struggling families into greater financial hardship. Islamic Relief USA responded with a family sponsorship program that brought immediate relief—but also helped families develop a way to earn a reliable living and a brighter future.

Here's what some of our participants said:

"Now, I can sleep soundly and with no worries about whether I will have food to feed my children the next morning or not. You gave me a gift ... it is not the food package ... it is the security and peace of mind it brings."

– Umm Tawfik

"My husband and I now calculate all expenses [for our grocery store] ... By the end of the month I am able to pay for the shop rent, electricity and even save 300 Egyptian pounds (\$50 USD). I am so happy that we learned how to manage our project very effectively."

– Umm Bassem

"I am so happy that my son can see me learning. When we go home we do the homework together. We have so much fun learning together." – Umm Atef

THROUGH THIS PROGRAM...

- 150 families received monthly food packages weighing 50 pounds
- Family members received medical care including checkups, more than 50 surgical operations, and equipment like wheelchairs and back braces
- Mothers and fathers opened stores, learned handicraft skills and started small herds of livestock to supplement their diets and income
- Families received household needs such as a roof or electrical appliances
- Children received uniforms, school bags, school supplies and tutoring
- Illiterate mothers attended literacy classes

Livelihood

In Egypt

Umm Monaizer dreamed of becoming a businesswoman. Islamic Relief's donors helped her make that dream a reality.

"I never trusted my skills and ability, she said. "But when you supported me, I was motivated and regained my trust. So I have sold now all my goods and have a large number of customers, as well. Not only this, but I have also saved 500 pounds and bought Eid clothes for my children. Thank you wholeheartedly!"

In China

Sha Ximei feeds her cow in her small clay shed, and smiles with tired eyes. The crops on her farm don't make enough money, so she used to have to travel to Pingliang city to take whatever labor jobs she can get to feed her family. She dreamed of owning a herd of livestock—enough to produce milk and other goods to sell, enough to support her son's education so he doesn't have to struggle like she did. But more cows and supplies would cost money that she didn't have. Then Sha learned about Islamic Relief's Islamic microfinance program in Pingliang. This program makes it possible for poor people, especially those in rural areas, to get interest free-credit that they can invest in income-generating projects and education.

With her interest-free credit, Sha has been able to buy the cows she needs, along with supplies and veterinary care to keep them healthy. She's even getting training in how to grow her herd and care for the animals on her farm.

In Pakistan - Kashmir

When Kalsoom Bibi's husband began suffering from epilepsy, he could no longer work as a driver and support their three children. Kalsoom struggled to earn enough money for her family to live on. Then she attended a two-month Islamic Relief-sponsored training course on advanced tailoring techniques. Before the course, she had basic knowledge of tailoring, but she did not earn much for her work. Now she sews clothes with new designs, stitching and color combinations, earning more money than ever before. She's hoping to be able to pay for school expenses for her children, and to complete some badly needed construction on her house, which has only a temporary roof. "Insha Allah," she said, "now I can provide an education for my children, and better shelter for my family."

All around the world

1.4 billion people worldwide live in extreme poverty. Without a reliable and adequate means of earning a living, even hard-working families are more vulnerable to stresses such as conflict, an earthquake or a drought. When such incidents occur again and again, it becomes even more difficult for them to earn a living or get out of debt.

Poverty is a cycle. Growth is a cycle too, and by creating sustainable livelihoods in impoverished communities, our donors are helping people prosper for many years to come, insha'Allah. The goal of Islamic Relief USA's sustainable livelihood projects is to create a reliable means of generating income. These types of projects help to reduce poverty in a lasting way. The United Nations has consistently found that sustainable livelihood projects are better than other types of humanitarian aid projects at reducing poverty.

People with sustainable livelihoods are better able to rebound after a disaster, and are better equipped to grow over time. They're empowered to improve their own lives and help create jobs for others in the community.

In China, Sha says, "Thank you so much to all those kind-hearted people who have given their support to make this possible on my farm." She presses her lips and nods. "This is my opportunity to help my situation."



SHA XIMEI FEEDS HER COW, CHINA



RELIEF

— on the —

RUNWAY

ATTIRE TO INSPIRE

A packed audience listens attentively to a speech at Relief on the Runway April 28, 2012, in New York City. This women's only event raised money for programs benefiting women around the world. "There are women helping women here at this event," said participant Nidha Merza, designer and founder of Islamic Gems. "Us women, we're here, we're empowered, we have our own businesses, and we are helping other women to get there."



DAY OF DIGNITY

A volunteer enjoys serving neighbors in need last year during Day of Dignity Atlanta, GA.

Every year, Islamic Relief USA's volunteers across the country mobilize to provide services for their homeless neighbors on Day of Dignity. Each event takes on the flavor of its host city, but guests can receive everything from a meal to a haircut, from job information to health screenings—and maybe even a massage. Day of Dignity is more than just one day of assistance—it's intended to inspire a spirit of service to last all year long.

Find out how you can help in your area!
VISIT IRUSA.ORG/VOLUNTEER.



Volunteers staff the booths at Day of Dignity 2011 in New York City.



A volunteer registers participants at Day of Dignity 2011 in Minneapolis.

GET INVOLVED

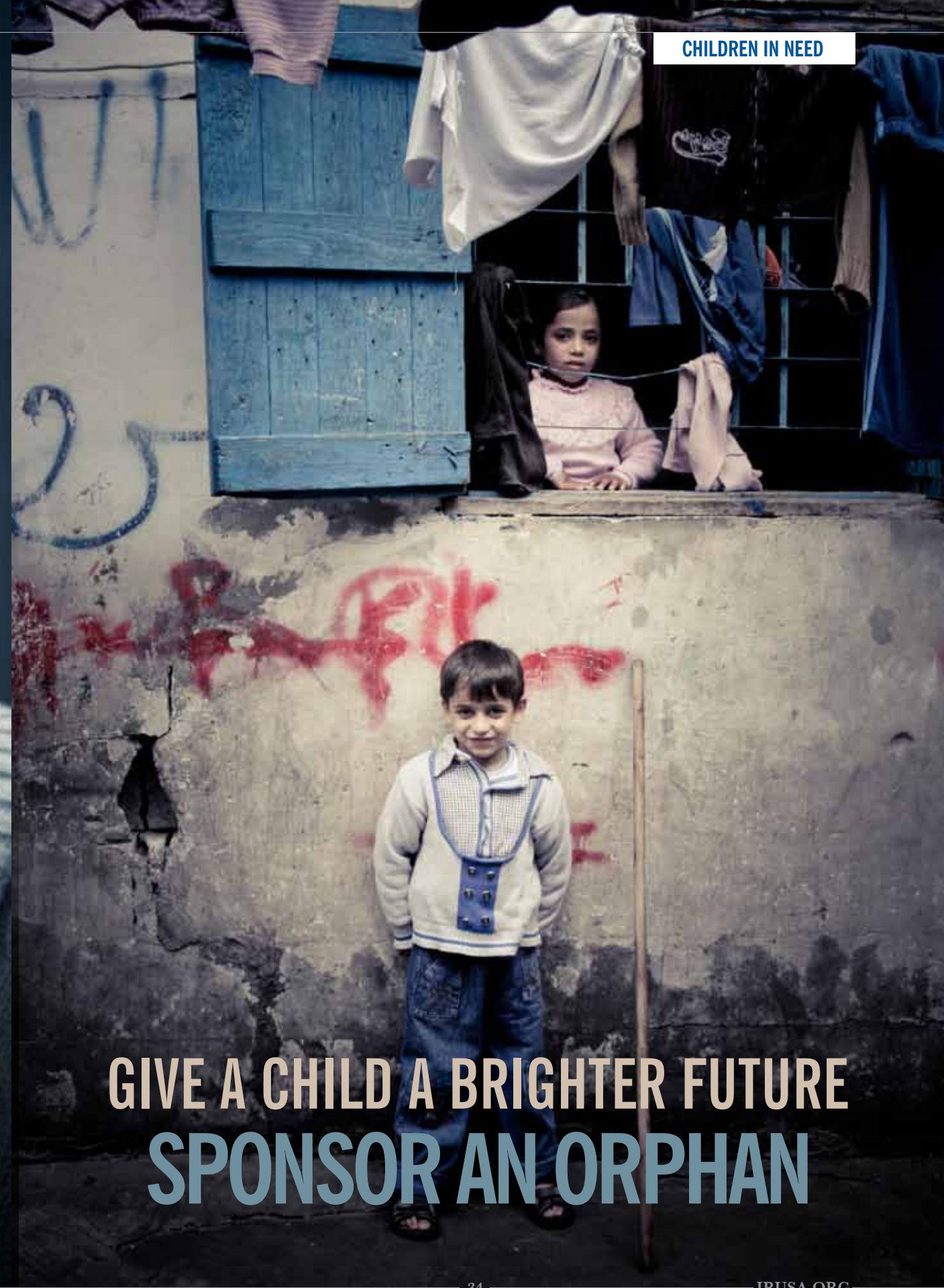
You can also dedicate your own event to help people in need! Whether it's a big charity walk, a small bake sale or an MSA dinner—or even if you want to ask your guests to donate their gifts to charity at a birthday party or wedding—we'll help you get started with team fundraising.

VISIT MY.IRUSA.ORG.

*Songs
for the
Children*

MAHER ZAIN

Maher Zain sang for the children of the world with Islamic Relief in early 2012, touring through six states and Canada with "Songs for the Children." The events raise money and awareness for children in need around the world. At the shows, he called children up to join him on the stage to help their brothers and sisters in need with one, unified voice. "Thanks to you, so many children will have a chance at a brighter future," he said. ——— "Together we can make a difference." ———



GIVE A CHILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE SPONSOR AN ORPHAN

RAMADAN & QURBANI

Islamic Relief's donors work to help people get the food they need year-round, whether through emergency food distributions or livelihood support programs so they can support themselves long-term.

But each year, our donors also provide special gifts for Ramadan and Udhayah/Qurbani.

Ramadan food packages help ensure that families can put food on the table for iftar, easing the burden of poverty during this special month. And Udhayah/Qurbani packages may be the only meat that some families eat all month—or sometimes even all year. This supplements the family's nutrition and also makes their celebration more complete. When their neighbors are celebrating with delicious holiday foods, the parents in our Udhayah/Qurbani program are so grateful to be able to give their children a special treat too.



1. Mali 2. Chechnya 3. Iraq 4. India 5. Sri Lanka



1. Somalia 2. Pakistan 3. Bangladesh 4. Sri Lanka

GIVE A LITTLE LOVE 





THANK YOU



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