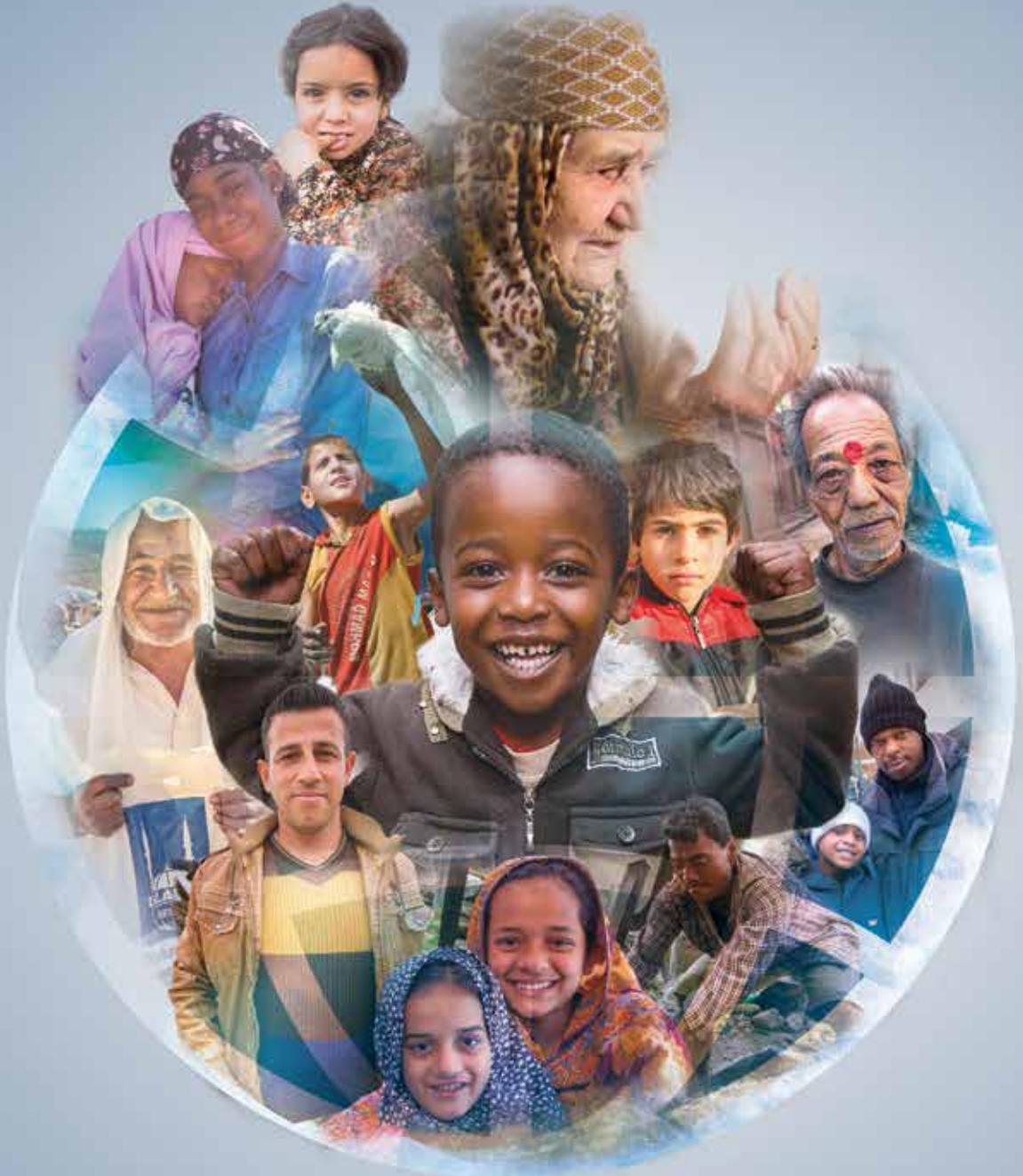


PARTNERSHIP



SUMMER 2015



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD

NEPAL • SYRIA • GAZA • YEMEN • IRAQ • PAKISTAN • BOSNIA • UNITED STATES



Assalaamu Alaikum == PEACE UNTO ALL OF YOU ==

The past year has been one of difficulty and sadness for many people from conflict zones Gaza, Syria and Iraq to the earthquake-devastated villages of Nepal—even in overlooked and neglected neighborhoods in the United States.

It's also been a year of hope and renewal in the same communities and around the world.

In these places and more, you have worked with Islamic Relief USA to relieve suffering and help rebuild lives.

In Gaza, you responded with incredible generosity to send emergency relief during last summer's crisis, and to rebuild infrastructure in its aftermath. Your massive response received recognition from our United Nations partner there—and appreciation from the people whose lives you've touched.

In Syria, although public interest and support are decreasing, we're working together with you to bring awareness to the ongoing crisis—and to maintain our level of financial commitment to relief. The people don't need less—in this fifth draining year of emergency, they need our help more than ever.

This spring, I visited Syrian refugees in Turkey and was shocked by the human devastation. I held a 40-day-old baby named Aisha in my arms—a tiny girl who was born after her father died, like our blessed prophet Muhammad SAW. Little Aisha reminded me again why we need to continue helping Syrians. She deserves a chance to have the basics to live and grow ... to go to school ... to experience peace.

We've also continued to work to expand our programs to help our neighbors here in the United States. We're excited to offer Ramadan food distribution here for the first year. It will be available to anyone in need, in cities across the country, insha'Allah.

Through all of our work, we've paid special attention to community members who need additional protection, including minorities of other faiths in Muslim countries such as Iraq. It's important for us not to allow others to take over the narrative of what Islam is. Islam is a religion of peace based on mercy and compassion. It's important for us to show that mercy and compassion to our family ... our neighbors in America ... our Muslim brothers and sisters around the world ... and our friends of other faiths from around the world.

Thank you for doing that with us.

Anwar Ahmad Khan
Chief Executive Officer
Islamic Relief USA



Children enjoy a meal in Washington, D.C., on Martin Luther King Day in January 2015.

CONTENTS

5. ABOUT IRUSA 7. PUBLIC AFFAIRS 9. U.S. PROGRAMS 11. YEMEN 13. NEPAL
17. GAZA 19. BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA 21. PAKISTAN 23. SYRIA 25. IRAQ
27. ONE FAMILY 29. RAMADAN 33. QURBANI 35. SPECIAL EVENTS
39. CARING FOR ALL AGES 41. THANK YOU

Creative Director and Photo Editor: Ridwan Adhami

Editorial: Lina Hashem, Nada Shawish, Fareeha Amir, Laura McAdams, Ala Yaktieen

Designer: Ali Hussain, Ala Yaktieen, Zainab Hassan

Photographers: Ridwan Adhami, Fareeha Amir

Thank you to all who contributed imagery and content from around the world.

Photographs © Islamic Relief





ABOVE: A displaced child receives food in Erbil, Iraq.



ABOUT ISLAMIC RELIEF USA

VISION

Working together for a world free of poverty, inspired by Islamic faith

MISSION

Islamic Relief USA provides relief and development in a dignified manner regardless of gender, race, or religion, and works to empower individuals in their communities and give them a voice in the world.



OUR CORE VALUES:

These traits express the beliefs and define the culture of the organization. We remain guided by the timeless values and teachings provided by the revelations contained within the Qur'an and prophetic example.



EXCELLENCE (IHSAN):

Our actions in tackling poverty are marked by excellence in our operations and conduct, which are deserving of the people we serve.

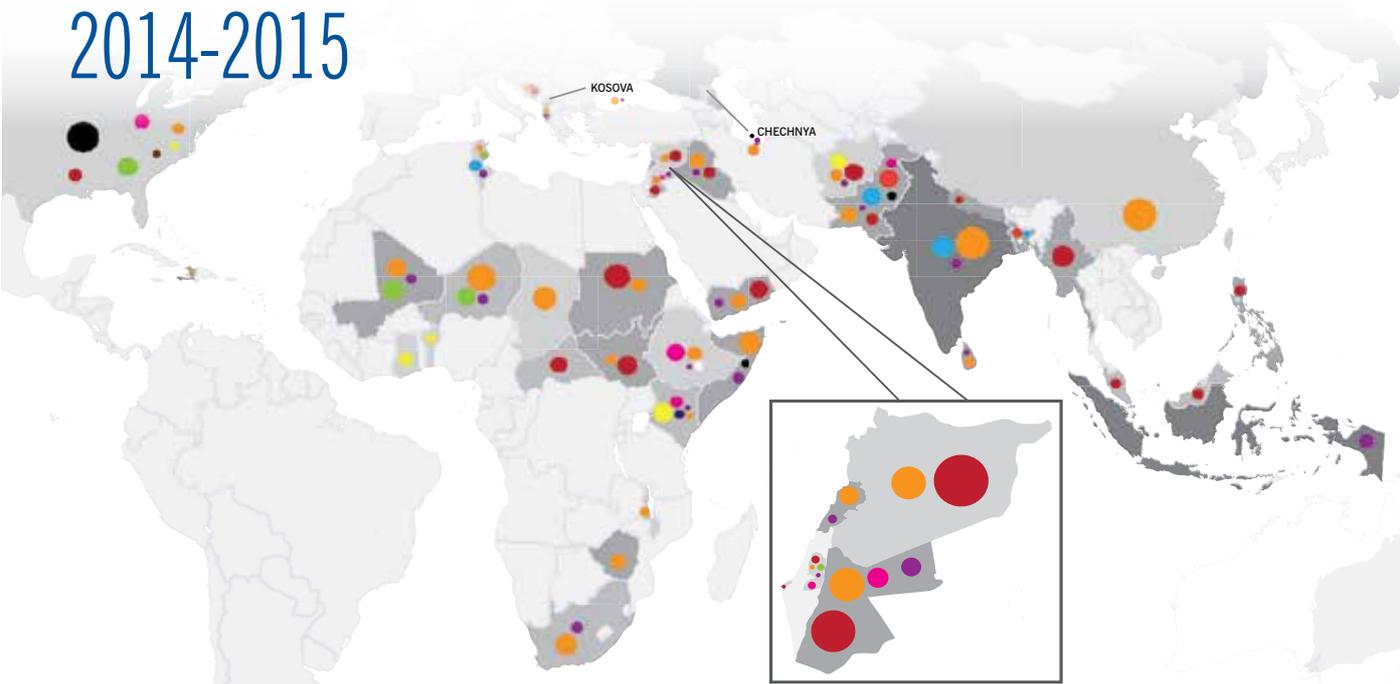


SINCERITY (IKHLAS):

In responding to poverty and suffering, our efforts are driven by sincerity to God and the need to fulfill our obligations to humanity.

AROUND THE WORLD

2014-2015



LEGEND

- AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP
- SHELTERS & SETTLEMENTS
- DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
- EDUCATION
- PROTECTION
- WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE
- EARLY RECOVERY
- EMERGENCY RESPONSE
- REHABILITATION
- SEASONAL (FOOD DISTRIBUTION)
- HEALTH & NUTRITION

* DOTS REPRESENT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE COUNTRY NOTED, BUT LOCATIONS ARE NOT EXACT. SIZE OF DOTS REPRESENTS SIZE OF BENEFICIARY POPULATION; LARGER DOTS INDICATE MORE PEOPLE SERVED IN THAT PROJECT CATEGORY.



SOCIAL JUSTICE (ADEL):

Our work is founded on enabling people and institutions to fulfill the rights of the poor and vulnerable. We work to empower the dispossessed towards realizing their God-given human potential and developing their capabilities and resources.



COMPASSION (RAHMAH):

We believe the protection and well-being of every life is of paramount importance and we shall join with other humanitarians to act as one in responding to suffering brought on by disasters, poverty and injustice.



CUSTODIANSHIP (AMANA):

We uphold our duty of custodianship over the Earth, its resources and the trust people place in us as humanitarian and development practitioners. We are transparent and accountable.



IRUSA display on Freedom Plaza in March in Washington, D.C.

A CAMPAIGN OF CARING FOR SYRIA

While IRUSA donors continue caring for displaced families with humanitarian aid, Islamic Relief USA is also working to make sure the Syria crisis stays in the mind of the American public—to educate and advocate for change. IRUSA has made this a priority focus through taking part in the #withSyria Campaign and InterAction. This included a successful “Turn the Lights Back On” campaign marking more than four years of the crisis, which garnered widespread media attention.

Islamic Relief also joined up with partners CARE, SAVE, Oxfam and others to present a larger-than-life refugee camp display on Freedom Plaza in Washington, D.C., just a block from the White House. Besides allowing visitors the chance to go inside a genuine refugee camp tent, there were also several exhibits of drawings and photographs highlighting women and children of Syria, including those by Ridwan Adhami of Islamic Relief USA from his collection “Scars and Smiles.”

CEO Anwar Khan traveled to the region the last week of April to work with partners on a Syria strategy and to learn more about the situation first-hand to share with officials. IRUSA also plans to host a visiting delegation of some of our partners this summer to give first-hand testimony on what they are witnessing as they work in the acute emergency with medical and other types of assistance.

Finally, Islamic Relief USA is a sponsor this year of InterAction’s annual conference, which draws together hundreds of member organizations, think tanks, and government officials. At the forum, IRUSA has a table to share materials about Syria and our work, and also plans to host an iftar. 🕌

Christina Tobias-Nahi

UNITED NATIONS AGENCY RECOGNIZES ISLAMIC RELIEF USA FOR WORK IN GAZA

Islamic Relief USA donors helped Gaza families with food and other humanitarian aid through the violence in summer 2014, and ever since, donors have continued helping families rebuild their lives. This spring, a U.N. agency thanked IRUSA donors for this work.

IRUSA has been working directly with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to deliver vital aid to Palestinians in Gaza—more than \$6 million in aid since 2014. On March 17, UNRWA's commissioner-general presented IRUSA CEO Anwar Khan with an award of appreciation.

“On a daily basis, we struggle in an environment where what is most lacking is hope,” UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl said. “With your support, [we want to] bring a bit of hope to the region.”

The UNRWA-IRUSA partnership has brought relief to more than 384,000 Palestinians in just the last year.

Anwar Khan emphasized that the merit lies with IRUSA donors who care deeply about Palestinians in Gaza and the Palestinian humanitarian situation.

“We want to tell our donors that we are working in partnership,” he said. “This is your money in action.” 🙏

Nada Shawish



UNRWA's Pierre Krähenbühl presents an award to IRUSA CEO Anwar Khan.

NEW COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM WANTS TO MEET YOU

IRUSA has developed a new community outreach team to further solidify its ties in Muslim communities. This team aims to build relationships with organizations around the country, with the goal of giving back to our communities.

Staff can work with group leaders to discuss grant opportunities for social justice programs. The team is also connecting communities with volunteer opportunities, from hosting events to joining the Disaster Response Team.

IRUSA is also looking to build connections with young professionals and students who will be tomorrow's leaders. Team members are meeting with student groups and young professional organizations to see how they can be involved with our current work and to include their voice in the future of our organization.

If your organization would like to work with Islamic Relief USA, contact publicaffairs@irusa.org. 🙏

Naeem Muhammad



IRUSA HITS THE ROAD THIS RAMADAN TO BRING FOOD TO AMERICANS IN NEED

PROGRAM TO ALLEVIATE FORGOTTEN HUNGER

Food insecurity is a problem for tens of millions of people in the United States. All too often, after the housing and utility bills are paid, there's not enough money left for quality food.

Imagine a truck or SUV that tours the United States offering free, nutritious food to residents in vulnerable communities. Islamic Relief USA donors are making that possible. For the first time, IRUSA will be delivering Ramadan food packages in the United States.

"We're trying to blanket the United States with these food packages," said William Lea, U.S. programs director at Islamic Relief USA.

IRUSA donors have long helped provide food for low-income families during Ramadan in many countries around the world. This year, Ramadan food packages—each with a month's worth of food for a family—will insha'Allah be distributed in about 20 U.S. cities nationwide. They're available to anyone in need, regardless of faith.

2015 will also be the fifth year IRUSA is offering free meat to Americans during Eid al-Adha, and the meat program is expanding rapidly. These food distributions combine with IRUSA's long-term U.S. programs—such as financial education classes—to help tackle the problems of poverty and hunger here in the United States.

The Ramadan food packages given by IRUSA donors will insha'Allah go a long way for families who don't know where their next meal will come from. That relief might mean one less difficult choice between taking a sick child to the doctor or making sure they can eat dinner that night. 🙏

Nada Shawish

IRUSA TEAM ASSISTS TORNADO SURVIVORS IN ILLINOIS



A disaster response team member speaks with a survivor in Illinois.

An IRUSA Disaster Response Team deployed in Illinois this spring to assess homes damaged by tornadoes and to assist residents—many of whom were surprised and grateful for IRUSA donors' aid.

Staff and volunteers assessed damage, interviewed residents, and determined the aid they qualified for. Those suffering extensive damage received cash cards to help with expenses like food, temporary housing and cleanup. Many residents were glad just to have a sympathetic person to talk to.

“We were told stories about women and grandchildren hiding out as winds that sounded like a train pounded down on their home,” said William Lea, IRUSA Disaster Response Team director. “Families stuck in their car as they watched their homes fly in front of their vehicles. Elderly women who decided to attend bingo and later walked us through bedrooms that no longer existed—that would have been their lodging on that evening.”

One woman whose home was destroyed asked Lea how IRUSA's assistance was possible. “We explained that donors gave to Islamic Relief USA to support families like her who had been affected by crisis,” he said. “This fact must have been overwhelming, and she stood and asked if she could give us a hug.” 🤝

Lina Hashem



A child in Las Vegas rests outside the family's new home, rented with Zakah assistance. Until recently, they were living in their car at left.

HUNGER IN AMERICA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported that 49 million Americans lacked consistent access to enough food to meet their nutritional needs in 2013. Many of them are working—their paychecks just aren't enough to make ends meet. Food prices have been climbing at least 2.8 percent each year, even though wages have remained the same or even dropped for most people.

Two-thirds of American families said they've had to choose between paying for food and paying for medical care, and nearly half of those families said they had to make that difficult choice at least once a month. More than 12 million households resort to eating unhealthy food because they can't afford better-quality groceries.

These are issues that can be tackled with local projects aimed at reducing poverty and food insecurity in major cities across the United States. To find out more about U.S. programs, visit irusa.org.



WE

NEVER

EXPECTED

THIS!

WHEN A FAMILY WAS DESPERATE, HELP ARRIVED IN YEMEN

Maryam is only 18, but behind her black niqab, her voice is strong, sure and full of both pain and faith.

“We’re going through a very difficult time at the moment. It’s not like anything we’ve experienced before.”

She’s from Sana’a, and her nine family members are living in fear.

“It isn’t safe in Yemen anymore. It’s very difficult to live here, and we’re heading toward a possible famine. There’s no water, electricity or gas.”

They need electricity to get water in their house. It flickered on only twice in 10 days.

“I think we’ll have to start fetching water from wells again. People will start dying of thirst if this continues.”

Her family used to get by on the income from renting out a small grocery shop, until the tenant was killed in the war. Her sister and brother had jobs, but it’s too dangerous to go out to work now. Schools have closed. Her family ran out of necessities.



“We never expected this so we didn’t store any spare food, and now food is extremely scarce.”

Then, just when they were desperate, help came, alhamdulillah—food from donors with Islamic Relief USA. Maryam received one of the food packages.

“We have lost so much, but God the Merciful is guiding people to help us. I want to thank Islamic Relief for their assistance. They found those who needed help the most and supported them. Thank God, as this came at the time when we needed it most.” 🙏

Lina Hashem

Islamic Relief Yemen was founded in 1998 and currently has 100 staff members on the ground country-wide to deliver aid. To date, Islamic Relief’s Yemen office has helped more than 1.2 million people in Yemen.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

FOOD PROJECT 1:

What: Food packages with necessities such as flour, rice, beans and oil, for 2 weeks to 1 month.

Where: Amran governorate in northern Yemen.

Who: Aims to help 1,000 families (7,000 people).

MEDICAL AID:

What: Lifesaving medical supplies

Where: Three main hospitals in Aden governorate.

Who: More than 200,000 people helped to date.

FOOD PROJECT 2:

What: Emergency food packs; 1/month for 3 months.

Where: Central to southern Yemen (Marib, Lahj, Aden, Sanaa, Dhammar, Taiz).

Who: This is expected to assist 5,160 families.

WATER AND SANITATION:

What: Water tanks installed for displaced people.

Where: Aden and Taiz governorates.

Who: This is expected to help 4,000 people.





EVERYTHING IS LOST —
EXCEPT RESILIENCE
AND SPIRIT

NEPAL



When the Islamic Relief USA team landed in Kathmandu, Nepal, four days after the earthquake in April, they were surprised to see that only one out of 10 or 20 houses showed signs of damage.

Then they got into a car to drive closer to the epicenter. As the winding roads became steeper and more treacherous, the rubble piled higher on each side. There, they found deep gashes in the Earth, and entire villages flattened.

“The saddest thing is that those affected the worst are usually the poorest people,” said IRUSA’s Ridwan Adhami. “They don’t have much to lose, and they still lost it all.”

What they didn’t lose was their resolute attitudes—their patience, even cheerfulness.

“The people weren’t sitting there crying or complaining, they were digging up the rubble with their own two hands, to start over.”



67-year-old Rajhu stands by his broken house (left) and the Buddhist temple he tends to (at right).



Manavie and Arju, Sindhupalchowk Nepal

The team met Manavie, who was living in a makeshift tent of tin sheeting with her husband Ramis and their 2-year-old daughter Arju. Standing in front of the pile of rubble that had been their house, Manavie smiled without a hint of sorrow. Like the other people they met, she was filled with wonder and appreciation that people had come so far to help her.

**“I’m so happy you helped me, and you helped my country and people,” she said in English.
“I’m so, so happy and thanks a lot.”**

Islamic Relief USA’s William Lea worked with Islamic Relief teams from around the world to quickly assess the greatest needs and coordinate the first deliveries of aid. First was food from IRUSA donors. Manavie’s family received a big box to help them survive for the coming weeks. Next came tents, flown in from Pakistan and delivered to remote villages, where some of the families had been sleeping in their livestock huts. Meanwhile, an Islamic Relief shelter

specialist was already sketching plans for more permanent shelters.

“We were the first outside people they had seen,” Lea said. “As we were giving out the food, they wanted to help us give out the food to their neighbors,” Lea said. Some asked for Islamic Relief shirts, and wore them with great pride.



LOOKING BACK

10 YEARS

- Hurricane Katrina, August 2005—More than \$3 million in aid, including a medical clinic and supplies
- Pakistan earthquake, October 2005—Islamic Relief family effort included road clearing, shelter, food, water, clothing and livelihood rehabilitation

- Indonesia tsunami, December 2005—Food, medical supplies, clothing and hygiene kits, followed by years of reconstruction



Indonesia, 2005

23-year-old Omesh worked to clean up the rubble of his home wearing a different shirt—one that said in English letters: “Allah will make a way when there is no way.” Omesh wasn’t Muslim. He didn’t read English. He didn’t know what his shirt said. But that was the attitude of his people: They were already picking up the pieces and finding a way. 🇺🇦

Ridwan Adhami and Lina Hashem

Omesh, Bhaktapur, Nepal

5 YEARS

- Haiti earthquake, January 2010—Food, water, shelter, medical supplies and more
- Pakistan floods, summer 2010—Food, shelter, health care and more, followed by rebuilding villages



Haiti, 2010

1 YEAR

- Gaza crisis, summer 2014—Food, medical care, water system repairs, school renovations, children’s psychosocial support

READ MORE ABOUT GAZA: [»»](#)



1 YEAR LATER, STILL CARING IN GAZA

WITH EMERGENCY PHASE OVER, RECONSTRUCTION BEGINS

Since violence erupted in Gaza in summer 2014, Palestinians living there have been struggling to mend their lives and repair their homes. Ramadan 2015 marks one year since more than 540,000 Palestinians were displaced in Gaza. More than 1.3 million refugees in Gaza are still at-risk, especially as instability spreads throughout the region. Homes in Gaza still remain in disrepair, many without walls or roofs.

Pierre Krähenbühl, the commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), warned the international community of the implications of not providing sustained relief to Palestinians in Gaza.

“You have a population that has endured years of Israeli-imposed blockade, which has led to massive unemployment and no freedom of movement. Over 45% of Gazans are unemployed, including 65% of young people. We’re essentially talking about a time bomb,” he said. Without hope for a future, what’s happening to Palestinians in Gaza has consequences that will extend well beyond the blockades and restrictions imposed on Gaza.

Humanitarian aid is imperative to helping Palestinians in Gaza recover—and not just immediate needs like food, water and shelter are needed, so are long-term recovery efforts like mental health care for children who have experienced trauma, education and rebuilding infrastructure.

Islamic Relief USA donors have supported recovery efforts in Gaza from psychosocial support and medical care for children affected by the conflict, to food and livelihood assistance to families who lost everything. 🙏

Nada Shawish

GAZA

GAZA PROJECTS IN 2015:

- Repairing water systems
- Clean water, cleaning supplies and bathrooms at UNRWA shelters
- Free health care at UNRWA shelters
- Strengthening psychosocial resilience of traumatized children
- Equipment & care at breast cancer diagnostic center, Al Ahli Hospital
- Emergency food aid for families
- Emergency supplies including hygiene items & household goods
- Youth job skills training and job placement

YOUR AID DELIVERED IN 2015

(As of April 2015)

FOOD AID: \$1 million, helping more than 60,000 people**HEALTH:** \$500,000, helping 5,000 people**NON-FOOD ITEMS:** \$500,000, helping 20,000 people**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:** \$500,000, helping 21,400 people**MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT:** \$1 million, helping 550 people**EDUCATION EQUALS HOPE FOR GAZA'S CHILDREN**

Education is a basic human right. For more than 800,000 children living in Gaza, schools give children safe places to play, learn, heal and grow.

IRUSA's programs in Gaza take a holistic approach to education. This means understanding that quality education goes beyond academic milestones—it also means ensuring students' emotional, psychological, and social well-being.

Young Children (age 3-6)

A nurturing environment during the early years is essential to a person's positive cognitive, social and emotional development.

In 2010-2011, less than 40 percent of eligible Palestinian children were enrolled in preschool, and there were only four public preschools in all of West Bank and Gaza. More than half of Gaza's preschools are of poor structural

continued on page 37 >>



HOMES LIKE **NEW** AFTER BOSNIA FLOODS

DONORS HELP FAMILIES REBUILD—EVEN BETTER THAN BEFORE

Water gushed into Joldic Edisa's house during the floods in May 2014. When the water was up to her knees, she and her son were forced to leave. The water rose until the entire town was 2 meters deep. Edisa and her son found shelter in a neighbor's house.

"We took a bag and that's all," she said. "Everything else got destroyed."

The flooding in May 2014 was the worst in 120 years to hit Bosnia-Herzegovina. More than one-third of the country was flooded, and more than 950,000 people had to leave their homes. Islamic Relief USA's donors rushed to help.

It took almost four days for the water level to recede in Edisa's town, but by then the damage was already done. A dozen more families packed into the neighbor's house along with Edisa and her son, living there for about six months since their homes were completely destroyed. In addition to destroying their furniture, walls and belongings, the water had carried toxins into their homes and introduced dangerous molds.

Islamic Relief has a long history in Bosnia. When Islamic Relief USA was founded in 1993, its first work was relief for victims of war in Bosnia. When the floods hit last year, Islamic Relief USA donors first responded with emergency food packages and blankets to keep the families warm.

MORE PLACES WHERE YOU PROVIDED FLOOD RELIEF

PAKISTAN- AND INDIAN- ADMINISTERED KASHMIR

In September 2014, monsoon rains poured on Indian- and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Water rose in the streets, encircled homes, and broke in. More than 500 people were killed, hundreds of thousands stranded, and millions affected with losses such as food and livestock. As winter approached, Islamic Relief USA donors rushed to help the survivors.

In Indian-administered Kashmir, flood victims who had lost their homes received items including warm clothes, blankets, food and medicines. In Pakistan-administered Kashmir, families received winter-worthy tents, solar lamps, kitchen sets, mattresses, solar lamps, hygiene items and food.

MALAWI

The skies opened over Malawi in December 2014, dumping water that rose in flash floods. In some areas, a month's worth of rain fell in one day, sweeping houses away, breaking roads and bridges, and chasing families to higher ground. Large sections of land were submerged, including farmland growing crops that were to feed families for months to come. IRUSA donors are providing food packages for displaced families, as well as other items including kitchen utensils, blankets, plastic sheeting, hygiene kits and mosquito nets.



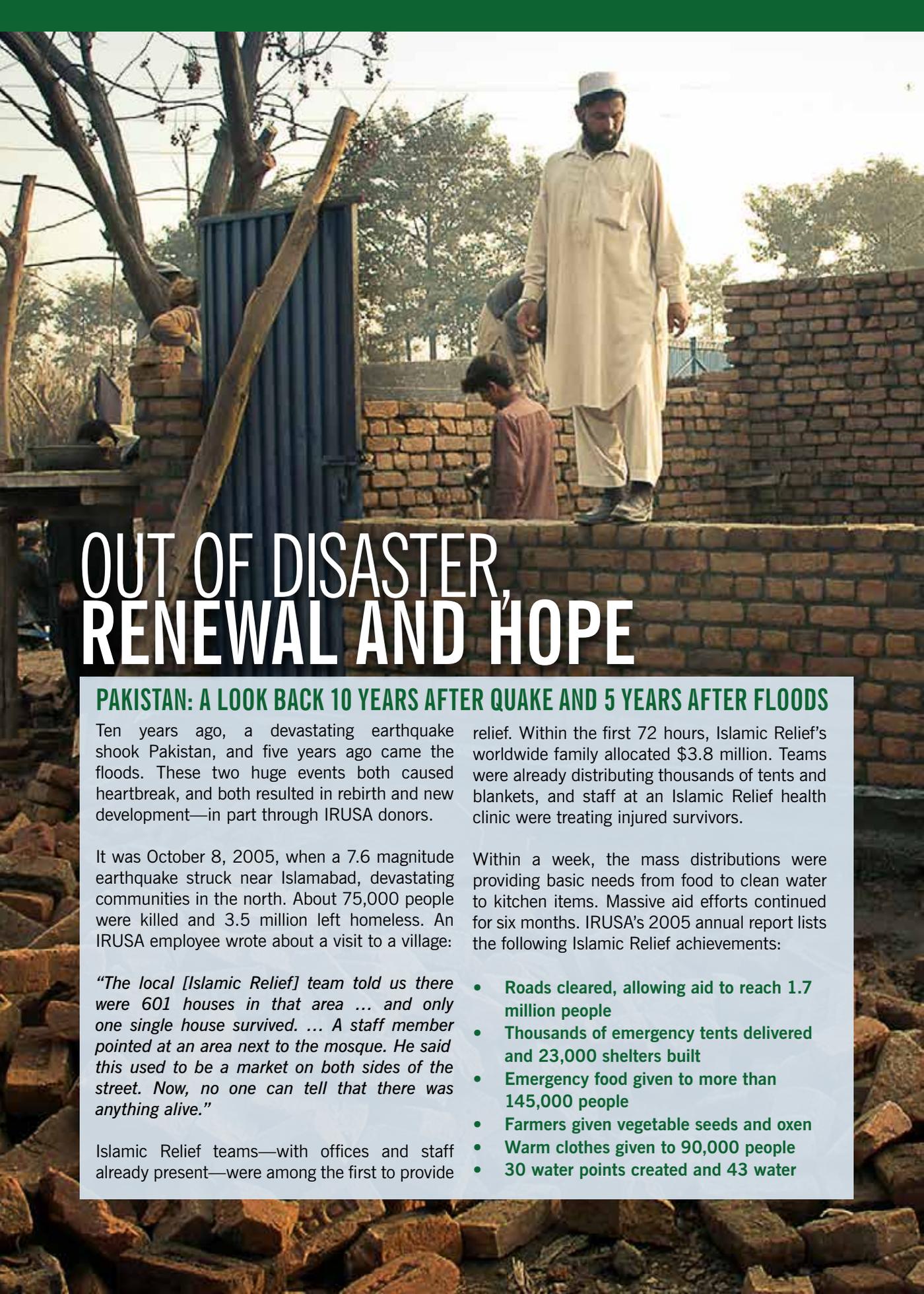
Joldic Edisa proudly displays her newly renovated home in March.

Then staff began assessing the damage of the houses and sponsored three dozen home renovations. Any damage causing danger to the residents was repaired, included flooring, ceiling, walls, windows, doors, and more. The repairs started in December 2014 and were being finished by spring of this year.

The repairs made some of the houses look better than they did before. Edisa is overjoyed and grateful with the results of the renovation. She planned to move back in as soon as she gets furniture.

“We are happy and thankful to Islamic Relief,” she said. “I am very happy, and will be even more happier when I move back in.” 🙏

Fareeha Amir



OUT OF DISASTER, RENEWAL AND HOPE

PAKISTAN: A LOOK BACK 10 YEARS AFTER QUAKE AND 5 YEARS AFTER FLOODS

Ten years ago, a devastating earthquake shook Pakistan, and five years ago came the floods. These two huge events both caused heartbreak, and both resulted in rebirth and new development—in part through IRUSA donors.

It was October 8, 2005, when a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck near Islamabad, devastating communities in the north. About 75,000 people were killed and 3.5 million left homeless. An IRUSA employee wrote about a visit to a village:

“The local [Islamic Relief] team told us there were 601 houses in that area ... and only one single house survived. ... A staff member pointed at an area next to the mosque. He said this used to be a market on both sides of the street. Now, no one can tell that there was anything alive.”

Islamic Relief teams—with offices and staff already present—were among the first to provide

relief. Within the first 72 hours, Islamic Relief’s worldwide family allocated \$3.8 million. Teams were already distributing thousands of tents and blankets, and staff at an Islamic Relief health clinic were treating injured survivors.

Within a week, the mass distributions were providing basic needs from food to clean water to kitchen items. Massive aid efforts continued for six months. IRUSA’s 2005 annual report lists the following Islamic Relief achievements:

- Roads cleared, allowing aid to reach 1.7 million people
- Thousands of emergency tents delivered and 23,000 shelters built
- Emergency food given to more than 145,000 people
- Farmers given vegetable seeds and oxen
- Warm clothes given to 90,000 people
- 30 water points created and 43 water

tanks installed, providing clean water to tens of thousands of families

- School tents set up and schools equipped with furniture and supplies

Before the earthquake, Islamic Relief donors were sponsoring 172 orphans. By the next year, the number had more than quadrupled, and now, IRUSA donors alone are caring for more than 2,000 orphans in Pakistan.

The Islamic Relief family's contributions reached \$30 million by the next year. Pakistan's government gave Islamic Relief an award of appreciation.

Islamic Relief never turned away from the people of Pakistan, and work was still ongoing five years later, when the skies opened during the summer monsoons of 2010. One-fifth of the country was underwater, thousands of people were killed, and millions homeless. Crops were destroyed, and farm fields were too waterlogged to plant.

Once again, Islamic Relief staff and donors joined together to respond with lifesaving assistance on a large scale.

Workers handed out food and hygiene kits. Teams set up shelters. Mobile health clinics drove in and treated long lines of injured and sick people. New water treatments plants began pumping out safe, clean water. In the early months after the flood, the emergency supplies brought relief to more than 400,000 people.

Then the rehabilitation efforts began in earnest. Islamic Relief donors in the United States helped rebuild 12 villages, from houses to wells to health care. Livelihood projects helped families get back on their feet by providing new seeds and livestock for farmers, and tailoring lessons and sewing machines for women.

Zahida Bibi in Punjab said:

"Islamic Relief supported us in the difficult time of the floods—I received food packs, winter kits, and other items. After that, Islamic Relief came to our village to rehabilitate our lives. ... I could not imagine how to rebuild my life, but Islamic Relief made me able to live my normal life." 🙏

Lina Hashem



Men and women discuss community affairs in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Islamic Relief formed community organizations as part of some flood-rehabilitation projects, empowering community members to solve their own challenges.

CURRENT 2015 PAKISTAN PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Eye screenings and surgeries in Balochistan
- Agribusiness support in Pakistan-administered Kashmir
- Supporting health systems in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province
- Disaster resistance in Pakistan-administered Kashmir



LIFESAVING AID CONTINUES IN SYRIA

‘I WILL STAY AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO NEED US’

In the fifth year since conflict began in Syria, entire towns are exposed to daily violence. People are unable to work, go to school, or get supplies, food or medical care.

The number of refugees has reached unbelievable proportions: More than 4 million refugees have fled to neighboring countries, with more than 11 million people displaced total. What’s worse, an estimated 50% of Syrian refugees are children.

For Syrians who are trying to live through yet another year of violence, basic necessities like food and water are in dire need. Medical care is urgently needed too, especially for patients with pre-existing conditions that require regular medicine and medical attention. Children need to be able to return to school and to have a sense of normalcy in their lives.

Islamic Relief USA donors have been delivering the things Syrians need during these difficult times and more. Ahmed Mahmoud*—Islamic Relief’s Syria program manager—said the help is literally keeping people going, despite the odds.

“So many people’s lives literally depend on the food and supplies we distribute,” he said.

For staff on the ground delivering your aid, like Mahmoud, the risks are high, but their dedication is stronger. “The security situation is very difficult and my family is always worried, but the desperate personal stories I’ve heard stay with me,” he said. “I will stay as long as there are people who need us.”

In addition to providing food and other humanitarian aid necessities to Syrians inside Syria and to Syrian refugees, IRUSA donors are ensuring that Syrians have access to medical care.

Life-saving health assistance is also critical in neighboring Jordan and Lebanon where so many Syrians have taken refuge. In 2015, Islamic Relief donors are delivering urgent medical care to Syrians in Jordan and Lebanon to satisfy the need.

In Jordan, IRUSA donors are supporting health

YOUR AID IN SYRIA

Islamic Relief USA donors have helped more than 2.1 million Syrians since 2011 with the following items delivered*:

FOOD KITS: 116,241

HYGIENE KITS: 84,758

MEDICAL TREATMENTS: 546,030

LIGHT BLANKETS: 49,864

WINTER KITS: 27,628

MEDICAL SUPPLIES: for 225 field clinics and hospitals

PLUS MUCH MORE: water, bread, diapers, heaters/fuel, rent subsidies, psychosocial support, Ramadan food, Qurbani meat, bathroom/shower units, cooking sets, and education.

**As of April 2015*



awareness campaigns that target Syrian refugees and the host communities on personal hygiene, disease prevention, vaccination and more in order to stop the spread of disease and ensure that Syrian refugees are equipped with ways to avoid getting sick. Islamic Relief USA donors have also provided specialized medical services for hundreds of Syrians in Jordan who urgently needed medical help, but could not afford the cost.

With unclean water and exposure to harmful bacteria and even hepatitis viruses, Syrian refugees often contract infections that go untreated and ultimately lead to kidney failure. Many patients are children, and they need treatment regularly just to stay alive. In Lebanon, this is a very specific and expensive need among refugees. IRUSA donors are providing free kidney dialysis treatments to patients who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford them at Beddawi camp. Donors have helped develop and equip a kidney dialysis unit there that can continue to readily serve the refugee community there. 🙏

Lina Hashem

* Name changed for security

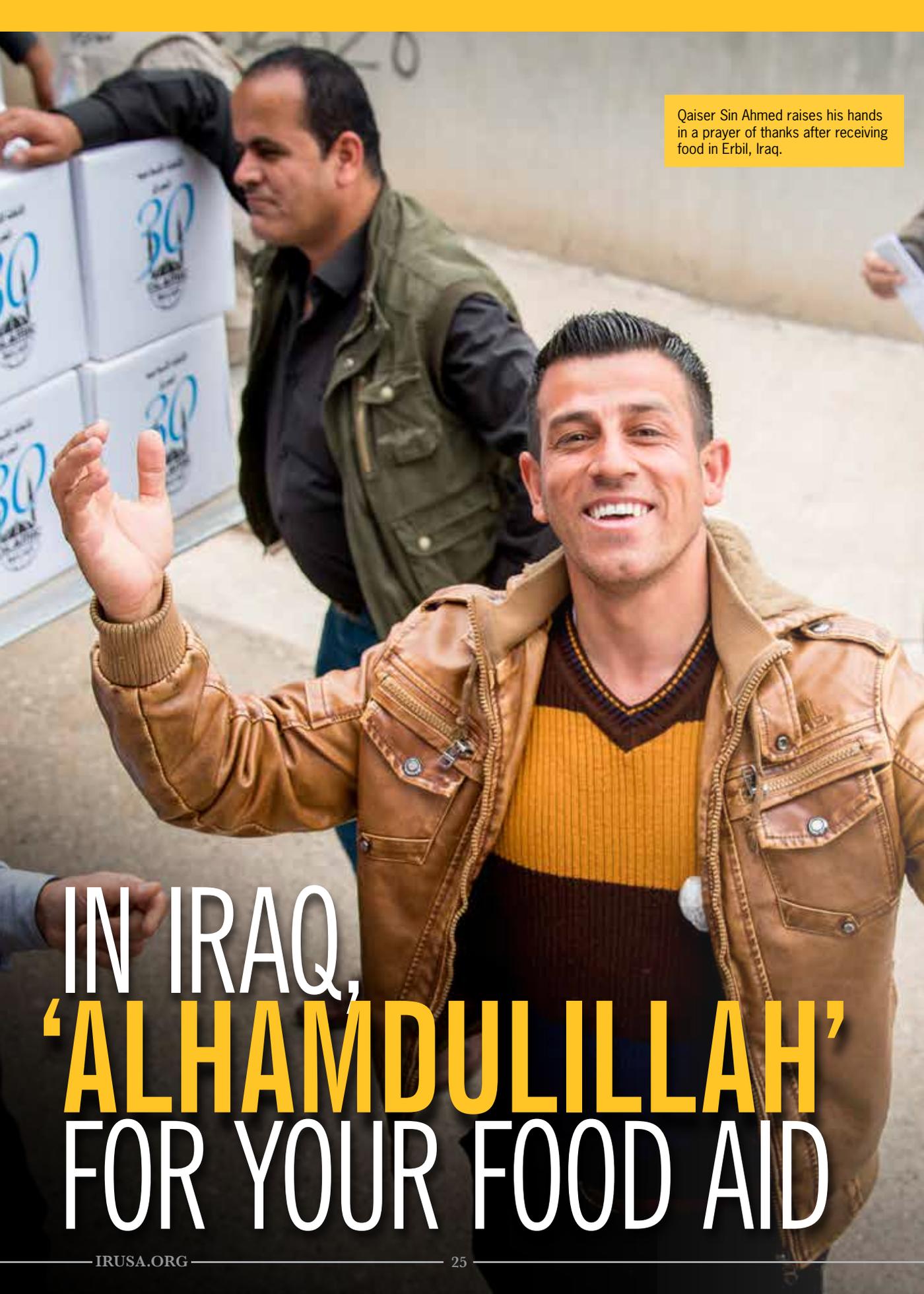
IRUSA MAKES EDUCATION A PRIORITY FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN

Enas was 9 years old when her and her family fled Syria more than a year ago in January 2014. Their home is now a simple tent in eastern Lebanon in one of the more than 400 informal settlements that are scattered throughout the country. Because there are no formal refugee camps in Lebanon, families like Enas' have had to find shelter in these settlements, often set up on agricultural land with varying degrees of access to basic services like clean water, latrines, health care and education.

Like many other refugee children, when Enas arrived in Lebanon she wasn't attending school, even though she had been a bright student who enjoyed school back in Syria. The nearest still-running public school in Syria had physically run out of space to accommodate more students, despite the fact that teachers were teaching two shifts of classes a day, and Enas' parents wouldn't have been able to afford the school fees anyway. Lebanon's schools have kept their doors open to Syrian refugee children, but lack of resources means that only about a fifth of the more than 500,000 elementary school-aged refugee children are enrolled and attending school.

Too many Syrian refugee children do not have

continued on page 38 ➤➤



Qaiser Sin Ahmed raises his hands in a prayer of thanks after receiving food in Erbil, Iraq.

IN IRAQ,
'ALHAMDULILLAH'
FOR YOUR FOOD AID

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS A LIFELINE

A crowd of people filled the small grassy area on a spring morning in the outskirts of Erbil, Iraq. They had been there since early that morning in hopes of receiving a food package from IRUSA. These people had fled their homes to save their lives.

Qaiser Sin Ahmed said ISIS had killed his brother and father in front of him. He had left his town of Mosul and came to Erbil, along with many other Iraqis from all over the country.

Islamic Relief USA donors helped 9,000 people in Iraq through the winter, with food and hygiene items. Many of these displaced people are not able to work, or only have one person in the family that is earning, and earning very little. They were grateful for the help.

Ahmed is fortunate to have a job in his temporary home. He works at a local restaurant and earns about \$12 a month. It's not enough to meet even the smallest needs of his family of 17 people. Despite all this, he came to the distribution with a warm smile. He went patiently through the lines, and when receiving his package he raised his hands and said, "Alhamdulillah." 🙏

Fareeha Amir

"We are just people,"
Ahmed said. **"No matter what race or religion, we need to help each other out."**

ONGOING WORK IN IRAQ

The winter project is complete, but relief is continuing:

- **Food and hygiene kits for displaced people in Erbil**
- **Food and hygiene kits for displaced people in and around Baghdad**



ONE



NEPAL

FAMILY



HUMANITY

‘IT SHOWS THAT SOME MUSLIMS CARE’

ISLAMIC RELIEF WORKER SERVES DISPLACED CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ

It was the middle of the night, and Catherine* woke up to the sounds of chaos outside her home in Qaraqosh, Iraq. It was fighters from the so-called Islamic State, and Catherine and her family were Christian—and in grave danger.

Terrified, her family joined thousands of others on the roads, driving away from their town in the cover of the darkness. They left behind their homes, their greenhouses, their livestock.

Now, her family is scattered throughout the Iraqi Kurdish region. Her brother and his family are living in a tent in a church’s courtyard in Erbil. Her mother and extended family rent a room in a house shared with four other families two hours away in Sulaymania. Her father passed away just weeks ago, his health deteriorating rapidly after their displacement. Mourning him, Catherine dresses head to toe in black.

Catherine lives in Erbil, where she works at the Islamic Relief office. She speaks Arabic, English and Syriac Aramaic and understands Kurdish, and she has been instrumental in facilitating Islamic Relief’s outreach to the displaced Christian community in Erbil. Throughout summer 2015, Islamic Relief USA is supporting 900 families in the Erbil region with monthly packages of food and basic home necessities like soaps, detergent, toothpaste and feminine hygiene items. At least 200 of these families are part of the persecuted Iraqi Christian community.

* Name changed for security

“O mankind,
indeed We have created you from
male and female and made you
peoples and tribes that you may
know one another.”

—Quran, 49:13



WORKING TOGETHER

SOUTH SUDAN



UNITED STATES



CEO Anwar Khan and other Muslim leaders meet the Dalai Lama in Washington, D.C.

At Islamic Relief USA, race, religion and ethnicity don't matter—if you need help, we want to help you, and if you want to help others, we want to work with you. From the United States to Nepal to South Sudan, we're working together with a wide range of partners, to help anyone in need. All of God's people are our sisters and brothers in humanity.

The first distribution was May 7 at the Syriac Catholic Church. Catherine registered family after family—collecting names, thumb prints, family size, original neighborhood, current neighborhood and date of displacement. By the end of the day, 200 families had received food and hygiene items.

Afterward, Catherine—normally cheerful—was quiet.

“Today I saw many old faces,” she said. “My fourth grade teacher, a childhood friend, the shopkeeper I used to buy ice cream from. I can't believe how many of us have lost everything.

“I HOPE ISLAMIC RELIEF USA UNDERSTANDS HOW IMPORTANT THEIR ATTENTION IS TO US RIGHT NOW, HOW IT SHOWS THAT SOME MUSLIMS CARE . . . PLEASE DON'T FORGET US.” 🙏



IRAQ

Laura McAdams



RAMADAN

1436 | 2015

A BLESSED GIFT

When Ramadan comes, we get excited to put up the lanterns and decor to welcome this blessed time of year. Every year while putting up the decorations, it's a tradition in my house to listen to the song my parents played during their childhood in Egypt. It's called "Ramadan Galna," which means "Ramadan has come to visit us."

The song personifies Ramadan as our guest. We're blessed to have Ramadan, not only because it has come to visit us, but also for the ability that Allah has allowed us to witness its visit one more time, alhamdulillah.

The song talks about how we prepare for Ramadan, organize ourselves, and welcome our guest joyfully. When we have guests over, we make sure to be on our best etiquette; the same way, we welcome Ramadan with a clean home, dressed up in our best, praying with sincerity. We only talk about Ramadan in a good manner and assume the best from it, because Ramadan is a blessing.

Ramadan is that reminder that revives and pushes us to the next level. With Ramadan we fast from food and water, our basic needs. Without them we would not be able to survive. They are blessings. In our calmer, more focused state, our character is free to grow.

This year, I want to grow my character to be more like that of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) by fasting from other things beyond food and water. I plan to note how often I let my words slip from the complete truth—it should be fewer times by the end of Ramadan, and then hopefully even fewer by the beginning of next Ramadan as I'll have a whole year to work on it.

I also plan to note how often I jump to ill assumptions about other people without giving 75 excuses. This year, let me get myself to make at least 10 excuses for my sister or brother.

We all know that when our beloved guest Ramadan leaves, we will miss it. But the spirit of Ramadan doesn't have to leave us if we really let it affect us insha'Allah. 🙏

Ala Yaktieen

RAMADAN GIFTS RELIEVE A HEAVY BURDEN

Abu Mahmoud left Syria with his wife and five children to look for safety. They moved from camp to camp because each one was overcrowded. Islamic Relief found them at a refugee camp at the Turkish border last Ramadan.

Before the conflict started, he said, life was good in Hama, Syria. In the camps, they had a hard time even finding enough food.

“Ramadan is the month of purifying our souls and hearts from sins and hard feelings,” he said. “We should not miss this opportunity to build bridges with Allah and each other.”

But far from home in a refugee camp, Ramadan was hard, and it didn’t feel like Ramadan.

Then, Islamic Relief USA donors sent his family a

Ramadan food package that included foods like rice, bulgur, lentils, tuna, olive oil, cooking oil, tomato paste, jam, dates and 55 pounds of flour.

“The food packages alleviated the heavy burdens on our shoulders,” he said. “We were worried for a long time, thinking how Ramadan month will pass by...”

“THE KIDS ARE PLEASED AT SECURING THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE **HOLY MONTH**. MY WIFE IS ALSO SATISFIED WITH THIS PACKAGE, AND SHE KEEPS CONVEYING **DUA** FOR THE PEOPLE WHO SENT IT.”



Syrian refugees Abu Mahmoud and his children were relieved to receive a food package sent by IRUSA donors.



 Islamic Relief USA donors made Ramadan brighter for people in 29 countries last year. For many of the recipients, your food packages meant they could focus on their worship, knowing they had something to break their fast with at night.

SYRIA
88,340

PALESTINE
6,526

TUNISIA
3,449



CHECHNYA
11,403

CHINA
7,286

JORDAN
1,260

CHAD
6,770



MALI
9,035

SOMALIA
21,025

INDIA
23,129



ETHIOPIA
50,062

HAITI
7,094

KENYA
6,364

YEMEN
19,730

IRAQ
33,305

SOUTH SUDAN
292

TOTAL HELPED:
IN RAMADAN 2014

SRI LANKA

9,824

ALBANIA

4,492



AFGHANISTAN

5,657



ZIMBABWE

283

BANGLADESH

2,793

PAKISTAN

8,206



BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

8,499

NIGER

6,455

MALAWI

5,778

SOUTH AFRICA

1,690

KOSOVA

7,651

LEBANON

5,896

SUDAN

16,460



378,754 PEOPLE

PAKISTAN



SHARING MEAT WITH THE POOR: A SPECIAL EID AL-ADHA TRADITION

For many people around the world, meat is too expensive to buy. What may be a daily part of our diet is a rare indulgence for them—or just a memory.

When Muslims share meat with the poor on Eid al-Adha, it's a very special gift. The hard times are lifted for a few days, and Eid is really Eid again as they gather to celebrate, with the smell of their favorite dishes on the stove.

Islamic Relief USA donors give that gift to hundreds of thousands of people every year—more than a million last year.

EID AL-ADHA WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.



A GIFT FOR MAYSOON

Maysoon is from Iraq. She moved to the United States five years ago.

For Eid al-Adha last year, she got two special gifts—first, her U.S. citizenship, and then two days later, meat from Islamic Relief USA donors.

“It’s a really beautiful idea,” she said after receiving 5 pounds of meat. “May Allah bless you and make many more like you. This is proof that there is still good in the world.”

THE NUMBERS

AFGHANISTAN 4,800
 BANGLADESH 31,200
 BOSNIA &
 HERZEGOVINA 19,290
 CHAD 22,042
 CHECHNYA 20,757
 CHINA 1,225
 ETHIOPIA 6,810
 INDIA 640,714
 IRAQ 1,500
 JORDAN 2,500
 KENYA 8,225
 KOSOVA 5,285
 LEBANON 3,380
 MALAWI 7,355
 MALI 15,870
 NIGER 22,350
 PAKISTAN 43,800
 PALESTINE 36,135
 SOMALIA 10,720
 SOUTH AFRICA 2,125
 SOUTH SUDAN 1,130
 SRI LANKA 57,215
 SUDAN 37,130
 SYRIA 224,015
 UNITED STATES 35,000
 YEMEN 2,300
 ZIMBABWE 37,080

1,299,953
 PEOPLE



SYRIA

PLAN YOUR SPECIAL GIFT THROUGH IRUSA.

USA



WHEN YOU GIVE THIS GIFT,
 YOU DO SEVERAL THINGS:

1. Fulfill an important religious tradition
2. Give a family a boost in nutrition and a delicious treat
3. Boost the local economy, as the meat is purchased locally wherever possible
4. Show a family you care

MALI



A close-up portrait of Fawad Khan, a man with dark hair and a serious expression, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie. The background is a dark blue wall with faint logos and text.

“IRUSA is a very reputable charitable organization working around the world. Together we’re trying to make a difference in the lives of people who have been struck by calamities ... orphans [and] widows ... and building healthy communities.”

Fawad Khan joined Islamic Relief USA for a nationwide tour last winter that raised more than \$1 million for development work in Pakistan.

OPPOSITE PAGE: 1. Walk for Water, Virginia • 2. Art Gala for Gaza, New York
3. Skate for Syria, Virginia • 4. Annual Banquet, Colorado • 5. Scars & Smiles, Virginia

IRUSA SPECIAL EVENTS



GAZA EDUCATION CONT.

FROM PAGE 18

quality, with unsafe play equipment—if any at all. And only 3 percent of Gaza’s preschool teachers hold a degree in education.

IRUSA’s Response:

Renovating and equipping preschools in Gaza

Training preschool teachers in active learning and positive discipline

Teaching parents and caregivers to address emotional behavioral and developmental needs

Children (age 6-15)

As children grow, they begin to establish a sense of identity, build self-esteem and forge their paths to adulthood. Trauma and stress may manifest in a wide range of ways, from antisocial behavior to learning difficulties to eating disorders. If not treated, psychosocial difficulties can lead to long-term mental health issues. UNOCHA estimates that as a result of the 2014 violence, more than 320,000 children need psychosocial support.

IRUSA’s Response:

Equipping 42 schools with trained counselors

Training school counselors and supervisors

Youth (age 18-28)

As young people finish school, it’s important that they have opportunities to become independent and contribute to their communities. Gaza has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, at times reaching 50% within the general population, and sometimes up to 60% among recent graduates.

IRUSA’s Response:

Workplace Success courses (topics include critical thinking and leadership)

Technical Training in Construction Management and Information Technology

Mohammad says this training helped him develop the skills he needed to find a job as an accountant.

“This training helped me develop my communication, networking and self-marketing skills, which needed a lot of work,” he said. “I did not even have a CV before the training. Landing a full-time job means financial independence for me, and being able to support myself means less financial responsibilities for my parents.” 🙏

Laura McAdams

YOUR AID DELIVERED IN GAZA 2014

INSIDE GAZA: \$7,880,071

FOOD AID: \$3 million

HEALTH: \$795,000

NON-FOOD ITEMS: \$3 million

EDUCATION: \$250,000

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE: \$485,071

EID AL-ADHA DISTRIBUTIONS: \$600,000

PALESTINIANS HELPED IN GAZA IN 2014:

More than 190,540



IRUSA donors are bringing Gaza families clean water.



'Make Every Child Smile On'



Mona Elbarmil accepts the Presidential Volunteer Service Award April 17 for her work volunteering for Islamic Relief USA. Mona, a college student in Virginia, has volunteered for IRUSA for six years, from assisting at dinners to photographing walks. Mona said: "It's beautiful to see what we can do to make the world a better place. May Allah help you get all the tools you need to make every child smile on!"

SYRIA EDUCATION CONT. FROM PAGE 24

access to quality, safe learning spaces. To address this, Islamic Relief and partners in Lebanon have constructed, furnished and staffed a new elementary school so that children living in the nearby informal settlements can start or complete their elementary education. By October 2014, 300 students enrolled in Al Andalus School and could attend classes free of charge. The school is also equipped with a computer lab, a teacher's workroom, and a psychosocial classroom to ensure the wellbeing of children who have experienced trauma during the conflict in Syria. The school even has an indoor and outdoor play area.

Enas was so excited to start school back up again at Al Andalus and likes to make the short walk to school, even though transportation is provided. "I love painting and football," said Enas, who is now able to study and play with her friends like she used to back in Syria.

In times of conflict and disaster, just as in times of peace, all children have the basic human right to education. When children like Enas don't have access to a quality education that helps them learn, they are being deprived of the foundation that will help them build a better future. Under the umbrella of UNICEF's "No Lost Generation" initiative, Islamic Relief USA is committed to ensuring access to learning and psychosocial support to protect the futures of Syrian children like Enas and other children around the world. 🌍

Laura McAdams



Syrian children can study and play again at an IRUSA-supported school in Lebanon.



Amina and her brother Daud in front of their house.

FROM ORPHANS

IRUSA DONORS CARE FOR ALL AGES

Islamic Relief USA donors care for people of all ages every year—from a tiny Palestinian orphan in Jordan to an elderly woman in Bosnia.

In the alleyways of Jerash, Jordan, lives Amina, a 3-year-old Palestinian orphan. She lives with her mother and two brothers in Jordan's poorest camp. She's too young to realize what she's missing—she smiles brightly and laughs her contagious laugh. An IRUSA donor has sponsored her, improving her daily life and giving her the chance for a better future.

With less worry about finding food, Amina's mother can focus more on her children's education. Girls' education isn't taken for granted, but Amina's mother wants all her children go to school,



and Amina's sponsor is helping make it possible.

On the other end of the spectrum, far from Amina, Dragija Becirovic lives in Bosnia, in a laundry room.

"The apartment owners are just waiting for me to die," she said.

Long after the war of the 1990s, Bosnians are still living with the war's consequences. Many of the elderly in Sarajevo were refugees from other villages. Now 20 years later, they are still in Sarajevo because they have no home to go back to. Many can't work because of their health, and often they're alone. IRUSA donors are caring for more than 200 elderly in Bosnia, providing them care packages with food, hygiene products, household needs and wood for the winter.

Becirovic is grateful for the help she received from Islamic Relief USA donors. She's thankful that someone cares. Islamic Relief USA donors have given her that care.

Islam teaches us over and over again to care for those in need—specifically, the orphans and the elderly. That's exactly what you're doing—giving hope in their youth and care in their old age. May Allah reward you! 🤲

Lina Hashem

TO THE ELDERLY



Dragija Becirovic sits in her one-room home.

THANK YOU





ISLAMIC RELIEF USA

P.O. Box 22250, Alexandria, VA 22304 • 1.855.447.1001 • info@irusa.org

A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization (Tax ID# 95-4453134)



IRUSA.ORG

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD.

FRIEND US ON:



FOLLOW US ON:

