



# Partnership

SPECIAL EDITION

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## One Year Later...

### Pakistan Earthquake



Almost one year after the disaster, Islamic Relief continues to provide humanitarian assistance to over 300,000 people in the earthquake affected areas of Pakistan. In photo above, Islamic Relief is awarded the Sitar-i-Isaar ('Star of Dedication') from Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf. October 8 marks the one-year anniversary of the earthquake which claimed over 73,000 lives. [Pages 2-3](#)

### Hurricane Katrina



Islamic Relief continues to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina, the largest natural disaster in U.S. history. August 29 marked the one year anniversary of the disaster. Islamic Relief's \$2 million response represents the largest domestic relief effort in its history. One year later, Islamic Relief continues to operate much-needed projects to help hurricane victims in the Gulf Coast. [Page 4](#)

## Humanitarian Crisis in the Middle East

### Rebuilding Shattered Lives



Over 900,000 people, displaced after the conflict in Lebanon, have begun to return home; in many cases, finding only ruins. Islamic Relief is providing humanitarian assistance in Tyre, Sidon, Nabatiye, and other parts of the country. In addition, Islamic Relief continues to provide emergency and developmental aid to help victims of the humanitarian crisis in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the Palestinian territories. [Page 5](#)

### 'Evening of Inspiration'



Islamic Relief's 'Evening of Inspiration' world tour came to the U.S. in Summer 2006. The 5-city tour, featuring Sami Yusuf, Native Deen, and a host of Muslim entertainers, performed in sold-out venues, promoting a message of hope, peace, and assistance to those in need. Over \$1 million was raised at the events; most of the funds will benefit projects to help victims of the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East. [Pages 6-7](#)

# Pakistan Earthquake

*"I thought doomsday had fallen."*

- Earthquake victim Abdur Rashid Hajjam  
Time Magazine, October 8, 2005

## A Unified Response

Following the devastating earthquake in South Asia earthquake, which struck on October 8, 2005, Islamic Relief began the largest relief operation in its history. With the help of donors, supporters, partner organizations, and the affected community on the ground, Islamic Relief has provided humanitarian assistance to over 300,000 people in the districts of Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Poonch, and Neelum Valley in Pakistan.

An overview of Islamic Relief's activities:

### Road Clearance

Islamic Relief spent nearly \$600,000 to clear roads that were blocked by the earthquake in both Pakistan-administered Kashmir and the North-West Frontier Province. Islamic Relief supplied a third of all machinery used in the massive clearance operation, allowing aid to reach 1.7 million people.

### Shelter

Thousands of emergency tents were set up for earthquake victims in the immediate aftermath. In addition, the Conrad N. Hilton foundation sponsored a semi-permanent shelter project for victims with a \$500,000 grant.

### Livelihood

Distribution of maize and vegetable seeds to help farmers earn a sustainable living, benefiting 165,000 people.

### Food Provision

Provision of emergency food assistance to more than 145,000 people in partnership with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP).

### Clothing

Distribution of warm clothing and blankets to over 15,000 people.

### Water and Sanitation

Projects include: distribution of clean water, installation of water tanks, creation of 30 water points, distribution of water purification sachets, construction of toilets, installation of waste facilities, distribution of hygiene kits, and hygiene awareness sessions.

### Education

Provision of school tents, furniture, school bags, and other equipment to help establish schools in the affected areas of Muzaffarabad, Bagh, and Neelum Valley, benefiting 1,000 students.

### Healthcare

Islamic Relief's Neelum Valley Health Center staff treated and referred 1,450 patients in the first 3 months after the quake and also held nine medical camps in the area. Additionally, various distributions of medicine, vaccines and other medical supplies have taken place to equip medical units.



Top: Islamic Relief staff members distributing aid to victims

Middle: Young earthquake victim

Bottom: Islamic Relief staff member stands among the earthquake ruins



# Pakistan Earthquake

*"I have nothing but the greatest admiration for the way in which Islamic Relief responds to these dreadful disasters."*

- Prince Charles of Wales, October 11, 2005



One of Islamic Relief's shelter projects for earthquake victims in Pakistan.

## Working Together: Islamic Relief's Commitment to the People of Pakistan

Islamic Relief is committed to the people of Pakistan for the long haul. For many years, our strength has been working closely with local communities, allowing them to articulate their needs and play an active role in achieving them. Now, after the worst disaster they have ever known, the need to work together is greater than ever.

It will take a long time to rebuild so many shattered lives. Almost all the hard work of the past decade was destroyed in an instant. What remained were memories and hopes. Memories of how Islamic Relief and the local community had previously worked together to solve their problems; hopes that this would be achieved once again.

The hundreds of community organizations that Islamic Relief set up in Pakistan-administered Kashmir proved to be crucial in the relief effort and will continue to play a key role in the months and years to come. It will be a long,

hard struggle before any semblance of normalcy is brought back to the region, but small signs of hope are already starting to appear.

Islamic Relief has moved on from its initial emergency phase and is now working on rehabilitation projects that will benefit the communities in the long run. Already Islamic Relief has planned to rebuild at least one hundred schools, train hundreds of people in key skills they can use to earn a living and construct houses for thousands of vulnerable families.

The next two years will be a crucial period in the reconstruction of the region. It will be a time when community organizations will have to convene again, getting local residents involved with the affairs and interests of their community. It will be a challenging period, when people will need secure livelihoods so they are no longer dependent on aid. It will be an opportunity to give the people of Kashmir another chance in life.

## Islamic Relief awarded 'Medal of Dedication' by Pakistani Government

General Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan, awarded the 'Sitar-i-Isaar' (Star of Dedication) to Islamic Relief Pakistan for its efforts in helping victims of last October's devastating earthquake. Adil Al-Mahi, Country Director of Islamic Relief Pakistan accepted the honor from Pakistan's head of state.

The award represents President Musharraf's acknowledgement of tireless hard work of Islamic Relief's team in Pakistan. President Musharraf assured Islamic Relief that the Government of Pakistan will always be a supportive partner of its efforts.

Al-Mahi noted after the ceremonies, "This is a great acknowledgement of his Excellency and the whole nation for the tremendous job and sacrifices done by the Islamic Relief Pakistan staff at various levels. This was a collective effort to help the victims of the devastating earthquake. Our intentions are always to assist those who are in need of immediate help and to provide basic needs to the underprivileged communities. This 'Star of Dedication' has encouraged our staff to continue to do good work. We have a long term commitment to the development of the people of Pakistan and will always be there whenever there is assistance required."

Islamic Relief Pakistan has been working in Azad Jammu and Kashmir since 1997. Islamic Relief's strong presence in the region enabled it to be the first international organization to respond to the needs of the earthquake victims.



Islamic Relief Pakistan Country Director Adil Al-Mahi (right), receives the Sitaar-i-Isaar from Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf.

# Hurricane Katrina

*"We're not even dealing with dead bodies. They're just pushing them on the side."*

- New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, regarding rescue crews trying to locate and save people who were stuck on roofs and in attics.

## Rebuilding America's Gulf Coast

With a year passing since the destruction brought onshore by Hurricane Katrina in August 2006, Islamic Relief continues to operate projects assisting victims of the tragedy. With over \$2 million in aid already spent on projects in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, Islamic Relief has remained committed to helping victims of the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

### Aid Distribution

Since Islamic Relief's response efforts started within days after the hurricane hit, over 1.28 million pounds of food items have been distributed in Louisiana alone. Working with partners such as the Second Harvest Food Bank and FEMA's Voluntary Agency Warehouse, Islamic Relief has distributed essential goods such as food supplies, water, and other household items to hurricane victims.

### Healthcare

In Biloxi, MS, Islamic Relief established a clinic after Hurricane Katrina to serve as the primary health care facility in the area. Islamic Relief also distributed medicines and medical supplies such as exam tables, to be used by health facilities across the Gulf Coast.

### Muslim Help Day

Working with the Muslim community in Houston, Islamic Relief provided hot meals for thousands of evacuees taking shelter at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

### Shelter for Evacuees

In the immediate aftermath of the hurricane, Islamic Relief assisted evacuees taking shelter in mosques in Baton Rouge. In addition, families were relocated to apartments and provided services such as free transportation, storage space for their belongings, and a showering facility.

### Education

In Houston and Dallas, TX, Islamic Relief helped children affected by Hurricane Katrina continue their education despite being displaced. Evacuee students in the two cities were assisted with school tuition fees and much-needed educational supplies and equipment.

### Volunteers

Islamic Relief helped mobilize thousands of volunteers in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi to help in serving hurricane victims. Over 20 student volunteers from The Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) partnered with Islamic Relief during New Year's Day weekend to prepare and serve meals, fill boxes with food items, and assemble supply kits for survivors of the hurricane in Louisiana.



*"Islamic Relief, or other organizations that derive out of religious institutions... have been critical to our recovery [after Hurricane Katrina]."*

-Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, June 10, 2006

*"[Islamic Relief] is vital to the strength of the Gulf Coast communities you serve and essential to making them whole once more [after Hurricane Katrina]."*

-United States Senator Edward Kennedy, March 9, 2006

*"...[Islamic Relief] paid tuition, fees and supplies for some evacuee students in Dallas and Houston, paid rent money for the only soup kitchen in Biloxi and helped feed evacuees in a convention center in Houston."*

- Fort Worth Star-Telegram, August 20, 2006



Top: Islamic Relief's Yousef Abdallah with Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour at an event in New York City's Central Park.

Middle: Health clinic established by Islamic Relief in Biloxi, MS.

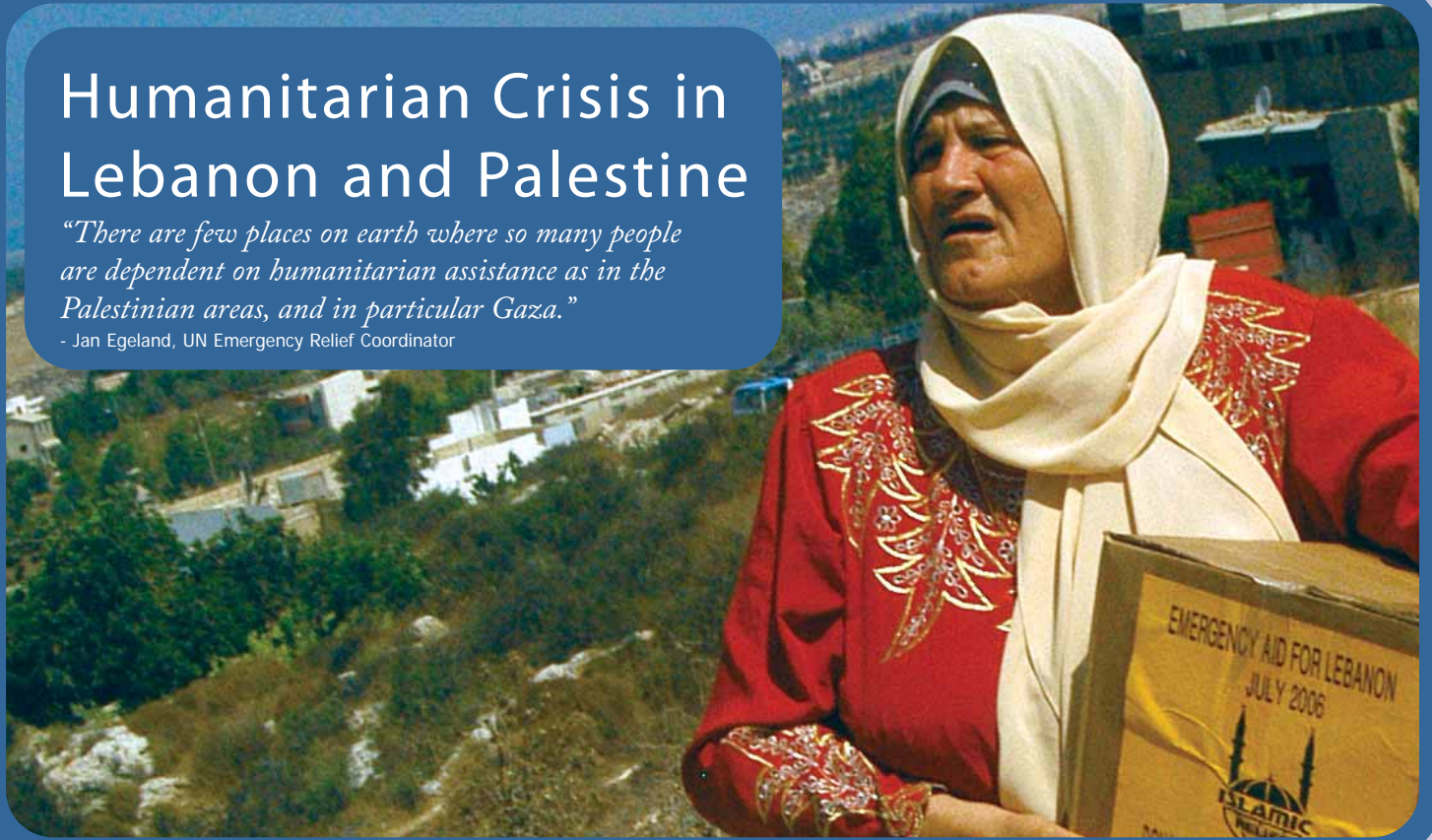
Bottom: Volunteers gather to serve evacuees at 'Muslim Help Day' in Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center.



# Humanitarian Crisis in Lebanon and Palestine

*"There are few places on earth where so many people are dependent on humanitarian assistance as in the Palestinian areas, and in particular Gaza."*

- Jan Egeland, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator



A displaced Lebanese woman carries a box of emergency aid supplied by Islamic Relief in Tyre, in southern Lebanon.

## Over 1 Million People Displaced in Lebanon

Conflict in Lebanon, which began in July 2006, resulted in a humanitarian crisis. Islamic Relief began emergency aid distributions immediately after the crisis, and, after a United Nations-brokered ceasefire in August, increased its humanitarian assistance with emergency projects in Tyre, Sidon, and Nabatiye in the southern region of the country, in addition to distributions in other parts.

Thousands of displaced Lebanese civilians are making their way home across damaged roads and bridges, but many will only find ruins. Around 900,000 people, or a quarter of the Lebanese population, have been displaced in the aftermath of the conflict. In addition, over 1,000 Lebanese civilians have reportedly died as a result of the conflict, and over 3,200 have been injured. Children make up at least 30% of the dead and injured.

Islamic Relief is distributing emergency aid items, including food, clean water, medical supplies, hygiene kits, infant supplies, and more.

Additionally, on August 1, Islamic Relief partnered with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to send 85 tons of emergency aid to victims of the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon.

*"I walk through the streets and turn a corner where I find total destruction. On a pile of rubble I see the head of a baby doll and a child's bag. I wonder who these items belonged to? It must have been a little girl. Where is she now? Is she dead or alive?"*

- Jamsheed Din, Islamic Relief, August 1, 2006

## Humanitarian Situation Continues to Worsen in Palestinian Territories

The humanitarian situation in the West Bank and Gaza strip also continues to worsen. United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland has said, "There are few places on earth where so many people are dependent on humanitarian assistance as in the Palestinian areas, and in particular Gaza."

Islamic Relief has been working in the Palestinian territories since 1994, and continues to provide emergency relief and long-term development projects throughout the region. Some of Islamic Relief's partners in the West Bank and Gaza include the United Nations, the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), the British Department for International Development (DFID), and more.

In response to this new crisis, Islamic Relief began distributing food packets to over 11,000 families in the Gaza Strip. These food packages have enough food to last a month. In addition, Islamic Relief is providing hospitals in Gaza with much needed medical supplies such as medicines and surgical gowns. In addition, they are also supplying clean, drinkable water from water wells to the population of the El-Shouka area.

Islamic Relief's ongoing projects in the West Bank and Gaza strip include: educational enhancement centers, integrated care program for traumatized children, orphan support, family sponsorship, micro-credit loans, school supplies for children, water and sanitation, and more.



## 'Evening of Inspiration'

*"...You might ask yourself  
Why should I help these people?  
They'll tell you why  
We're not so different from you  
We have dreams just like you  
But they were buried with the  
bodies of our loved ones..."*

- 'Make a Prayer'  
Lyrics: Sami Yusuf & Bara Kherigi  
composition: Sami Yusuf  
© 2005 Awakening

Sami Yusuf, performing at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center, the last stop of the 'Evening of Inspiration' tour.

## Over 7,000 Across the Country Inspired to Help Those in Need

Islamic Relief brought the highly popular "Evening of Inspiration" benefit concert to the United States for the first time, after holding it for the third straight year in the United Kingdom and selling out in all six venues. Over \$1 million was raised at the events; most of the funds will benefit projects to help children and other victims of the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East.

The "Evening of Inspiration" benefit concert - touring in Dallas, New Jersey, Detroit, and Los Angeles from July 27 to August 6 - showcased some of the world's leading performers of Islamic cultural entertainment. The event reshaped the culture of Islamic entertainment throughout the United States, being one of the first tours of its nature in history.

Headliners included British singing sensation Sami Yusuf and the Maryland-based group Native Dean. Yusuf has fast become the leading Islamic singer

in Europe, the Middle East and United States. *TIME Magazine* online has called Yusuf "Islam's biggest rock star" who's "songs of peace elicit Beatle-sized frenzy." Comedians taking part in the concerts included Mohammad Amer, Preacher Moss, and Azhar Usman.

Speaking of the city's sold out show, the *Dallas Morning News* said: "Diversity was on display and maybe even the star of the show. The audience crossed just about every imaginable line - black, white and brown, young and old, conservative dress and thoroughly modern."

Islamic Relief has always strived to connect with its donors and supporters and express gratitude for their generosity and support. The benefit concerts provided attendees with fun-filled, family entertainment while raising awareness and funds for humanitarian causes.





## 'Evening of Inspiration'

*"Islamic Relief benefit [concert] is a refreshing departure from the routine."*

-The Dallas Morning News, July 28, 2006

Naeem Muhammad of Native Deen, performing at the 'Evening of Inspiration' in Long Beach, CA (bandmate Abdul-Malik Ahmad is in the background). Native Deen, one of the headlining acts of the tour, consists of three young men who were born and raised in America with Islam as their faith. Growing up as Muslims in America is what makes their music so popular with the youth. In addition, Muslim parents and people of all faiths enjoy their songs. The hip beats and positive lyrics make their music truly universal. "...and like Christian rock did a decade ago, they are finding their niche," said New York Public Radio, WNYC.



Kurdish drummer Hussaen Zahawy amazed the crowd in Long Beach, CA with his traditional Islamic drum techniques.



Native Deen Drummer Zul Quarnan Abdul-Shahid often stole the show with his masterful conga drum solos.



# Have you Helped an Orphan Today?

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For the third year in a row, Islamic Relief USA has been recognized as a 4-star charity by Charity Navigator, its highest rating. Charity Navigator is America's largest charity evaluator.