

Partnership

the official newsletter of Islamic Relief

Fall 2007

Climate Change

The threat from climate change is growing every day, and is disproportionately affecting the poorest and most vulnerable communities.

West Africa: A Photo Essay

An aid worker's visual account of his journey through Chad, Niger and Mali.

Katrina: Two Years On

Islamic Relief's Gulf Coast Projects assist survivors of the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

Millennium Development Goals

Learn about the eight objectives set by the world community to improve the lives of millions in some of the world's poorest countries.



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CLIMATE CHANGE

THE EFFECT ON POOR COMMUNITIES



The reality of climate change is now widely acknowledged. The earth is getting hotter, the weather is becoming more extreme and floods, drought and natural disasters are increasing. All these changes are affecting the global community - excessively in poor regions - putting lives and livelihoods at risk.

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

It is a change in the natural climate of the earth, which currently means that the earth is getting hotter. The earth's temperature needs to be kept constant for life to exist, but over the years, this natural balance has been affected. Usage of coal and oil has increased since the industrial revolution, releasing more gases into the atmosphere and causing the earth to warm up - a phenomenon known as the greenhouse effect. This affects the climate and has a direct impact on people's lives.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

More extreme weather patterns means more lives are lost. Climate change is thought to be leading to an increase in the number of natural disasters and the extent of the damage they cause. In some parts of the world it is leading to heavier and prolonged rainfall causing floods, while other areas have become much hotter and drier, leading to drought and food shortages. The warmer weather is also melting the glaciers and leading to an increase in sea levels, which will cause increased flooding and displace millions of people. Experts predict the temperature of the earth will rise between two and six degrees by the end of the century, with catastrophic effects around the world.

WHO DOES IT AFFECT?

The negative effects of these changes will fall disproportionately upon the world's poorest communities - those who already struggle to feed themselves, who regularly suffer from devastating natural disasters and whose public services are unable to meet the needs of the population. Climate change will lead to more inequalities in health care, access to food, clean water, and other resources, and will even reverse the positive steps toward development that many countries have taken.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THERE IS MORE DROUGHT?

Farmers in tropical and subtropical areas are largely dependent on rain to grow crops. These crops are sensitive to changes in the climate; a decrease in rainfall, along with poor quality soil (caused by over-farming and desertification) and extreme weather will make it almost impossible for these farmers to grow enough food to feed themselves and make a living.



In Africa, agriculture accounts for 70 percent of the continent's employment. The U.N. Environment Program (UNEP) predicts that within 40 years, the crop yields of sub-Saharan Africa will be cut in half due to climate changes and desertification. This process is already well under way and is seriously impacting poor communities.

Drought is also threatening the way of life of many pastoralist communities, which rely on their animals for survival and have always migrated in order to find the best pastures. If these pastures are depleted due to the lack of rainfall, the animals will die, leaving pastoralists unable to survive in the way they have managed to for so many generations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THERE ARE MORE FLOODS?

A rise in the Earth's temperature may threaten communities living near water sources such as rivers or seas - where the land is fertile and crops can be grown. A rise in sea levels could cause severe

flooding that would destroy homes and fertile agricultural land. Billions of people could be forced to migrate further inland and be left with no way of growing crops to feed themselves and their families. Widespread flooding will also contaminate water sources, thus making safe drinking water even scarcer.

HOW WILL IT IMPACT PEOPLE'S HEALTH?

Climate change brings with it many health risks, including heat-related illnesses and malnutrition caused by food shortages. It also increases the prevalence of serious diseases such as malaria, meningitis and dengue fever. For example, an increase in wetter, warmer conditions will spread malaria to regions where it was previously absent, putting more lives at risk and a massive strain on the region's health services.

The increase in rainfall and flooding is also leaving people exposed to waterborne diseases such as cholera, diarrhea and dysentery as people have no choice but



to drink contaminated water, especially if floods have destroyed local sanitation and sewage facilities.

COULD THERE BE MORE CONFLICTS?

When resources such as food and water are scarce, conflicts between communities, and even between countries, are likely to appear. Pastoralists who move with their animals are completely dependent on the availability of water sources to sustain their herds. As water sources become scarcer, they will encounter resistance from other pastoralist communities also looking for water or from sedentary farmers living near a water source.

It is predicted that millions of people may be forced to flee their homes in order to escape the effects of climate change. These 'environmental refugees' will need to be given shelter and protection, putting a huge strain on the host communities' resources and creating heightened tensions and potential for conflict.



HELP FOR HASHU



Hashu Das, a widow and grandmother, lives in the Sunamganj district of Bangladesh where flooding destroys the village every year. Despite being situated on high ground, heavy rainfall and water from the nearby Kalni river submerges her home, leaving her with no choice but to seek refuge with neighbors. She takes her small boat and makes the dangerous journey alone, through deep water and waves that seem as high as those of the ocean.

“Every year I watch helplessly as the land around my house is eroded,” she told Islamic Relief. “I cannot travel to the market or go to seek help from other people. I cannot plant any vegetables. The situation is almost unbearable for a poor widow like me,” she said.

Her husband worked as a day laborer and died of dysentery more than 30 years ago, leaving her to raise their three sons. Two of her sons and her 10-year-old granddaughter now live with her, providing a small and irregular income for the family.

Since early 2006, Islamic Relief has been working in Bangladesh’s Sunamganj district to help reduce the damaging impact of floods on people’s lives. One aspect of this project has been to raise the land around houses that are vulnerable to flooding, which both protects the houses from water and also protects planted vegetables and livestock.

“I could hardly believe my luck when my house was selected by Islamic Relief,” Hashu said. “Only three weeks ago, I was wondering what will happen to my house if

the rains continue. Then the workers came and began raising and extending my front yard. Now it is much bigger than before. And the most important thing is now I can plant my vegetables there,” she added.

Islamic Relief’s disaster mitigation projects involve community members at every level, using their experiences to design the appropriate work that needs to take place. Local villagers are employed as laborers to provide them with a much-needed source of income and encourage their involvement in community projects.

The first crop Hashu planted in her new front yard was pumpkin. “In the next two weeks, it will be ready for harvesting,” she said happily. “It is only for domestic use but it is enough to feed our family for several days,” she said.

PREPARING FOR DISASTER



With an existing flooding problem, Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. During the great floods of 2004, 80 percent of the country's crops were destroyed or damaged, and 30 million people were made homeless. In a country with low economic development that is so densely populated, the effects of even minor climate changes could be catastrophic.

Currently, almost one-fifth of the population lives just one meter above sea level. A rise in sea levels could affect all aspects of life as the intrusion of salt water would prevent farmers from growing crops and would also restrict the availability of water for domestic use. Rising sea levels also greatly increase the risk of waterborne diseases.

However, it is not only the sea that threatens Bangladesh. Melting glaciers in the Himalayas caused by warmer temperatures would force water down the mountain side, causing rivers to burst their banks and land to flood.

PREPARING FOR DISASTER

Working with local communities in the town of Derai, Usha helps people prepare for disasters so that when they do occur, their impact is minimal. Before she joined Islamic Relief as a volunteer on the Disaster Preparedness team, her family was one of the many who benefited from training in how to prepare for disasters.

"I enjoy these activities. All of them are important for me," Usha said. "The work is not as difficult as I thought. The initiative for communal work is all that is needed from the community."

Usha is enthusiastic about her work and always delivers her message with a smile. "I motivate the community to raise the ground near their homes like Islamic Relief has been doing," she said. In an area extremely vulnerable to flooding, the impact of this simple yet effective measure cannot be overstated.

Usha is one of 1,200 volunteers working with Islamic Relief to help communities prepare for flooding. She accomplishes this task by engaging the community at meetings where people are educated before a disaster occurs. She assists in discussing the causes and types of disasters that may occur, the importance of disaster preparedness and helpful things people can do to be ready both during and after the floods, with an emphasis on health and hygiene issues.

PREVENTING CLIMATE CHANGE

SEVERE DROUGHT IN NIGER AND MALI

Niger and Mali are situated in the Sahel region of sub-Saharan Africa, which is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The Sahel is already very dry and suffers from regular food shortages caused by drought. In recent years, the Sahara desert to its north is thought to have increased in size, heading southward into the Sahel. This may partly be due to changes in the climate that are making the region hotter, as well as the effects of deforestation that have allowed the sands to move.

These changes in the region are making it increasingly difficult for farmers to feed their animals and have been contributing to the chronic food problems and shockingly high rates of malnutrition amongst the population. In this region, one in five children die before their fifth birthday.

As Mali and Niger become hotter and drier, access to clean water will become more restricted. During the last 100 years, the rainfall across Mali has decreased by up to 50 percent, causing massive social, economic and health-related problems. In 2005, food shortages left more than 4 million people on the brink of starvation. If scientific predictions are correct, then these food crises will become ever more frequent.

Islamic Relief has been working in Niger and Mali for a number of years and has provided emergency relief during periods of drought. In Niger, our work in the Tillaberi region has focused on planting trees, helping communities recover agricultural land and teaching them new techniques so that they are able to grow crops even during periods of drought. This has helped many families survive the food crisis, but the long-term effects of climate change need to be tackled to give the people of this region a more secure future.

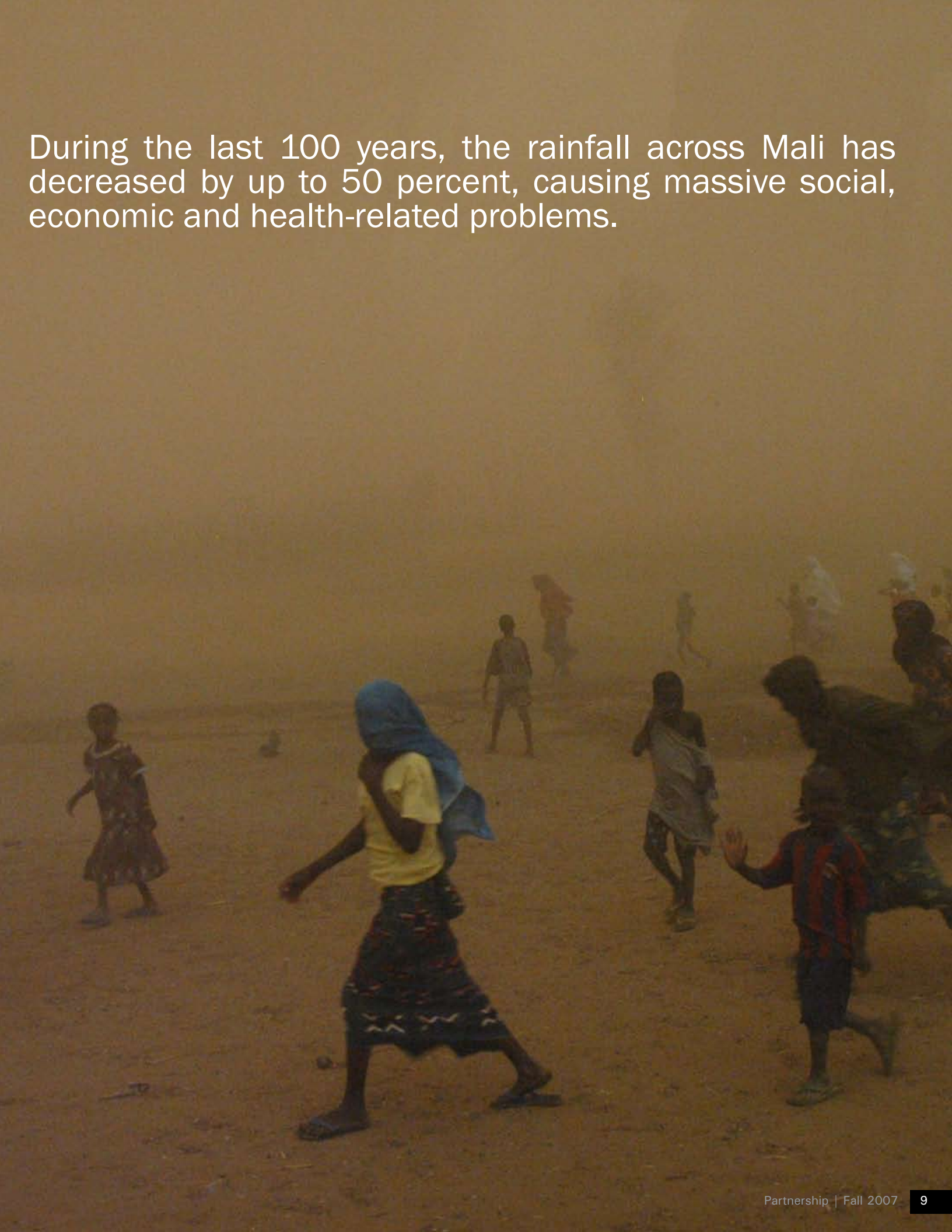


ISLAMIC RELIEF SUDAN AIMS TO BE CARBON NEUTRAL

Islamic Relief's Sudan office is helping to offset its carbon emissions by planting trees after every flight taken by staff. Due to the vast distances between Islamic Relief's offices in the country, flights have to be taken on a regular basis, but staff are conscious of the damaging effect this has on the environment.

The lack of trees is a serious problem in Sudan, as many areas are arid and drought-prone. The trees are being planted in public areas such as schools and health clinics, where they can also provide shade for the local community. Islamic Relief staff are also planting fruit trees such as mango and guava saplings in the homes of children sponsored by the organization. When these trees mature, they will provide fruit for the family and perhaps even be enough for them to sell at market.

During the last 100 years, the rainfall across Mali has decreased by up to 50 percent, causing massive social, economic and health-related problems.



WEST AFRICA

A PHOTO ESSAY



IR-USA Representative Naeem Muhammad Visits Chad, Niger and Mali.

Very often when I am out and about in the community, people comment that I have the best job in the world. They say this because I've been blessed with the opportunity to assist in Islamic Relief's first response team for some of the world's worst disasters. At a moment's notice, and with even less time to pack and book a flight, I've assisted with earthquake, famine, hurricane, and tsunami relief efforts. And while I learned a lot about the logistics of emergency relief work while on these

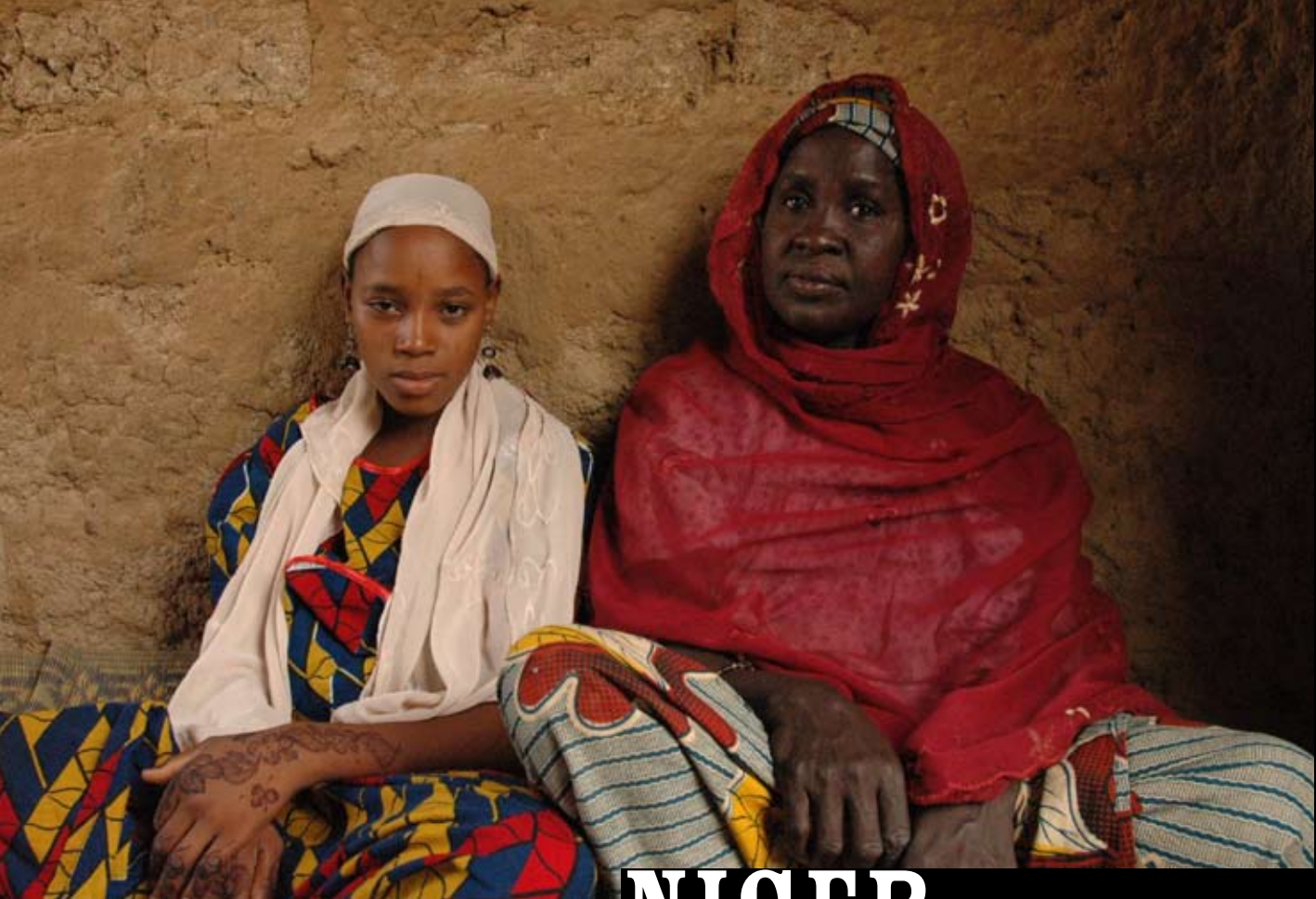
trips, I didn't get the one-on-one time with beneficiaries that I had hoped for. I had more of a personal relationship with my paperwork and colleagues than the people we were helping. But this spring, I was given the chance to change all that. It was a trip to three countries in Africa: Chad, Niger and Mali. My mission was to learn about the projects Islamic Relief is implementing, report on the progress and, most importantly, talk to beneficiaries to tell their stories to those who are willing to help.



CHAD

Arriving at the Gaga Refugee Camp in Abache was like having every picture I've seen of the refugee camps for the people of Darfur come to life. Right before my eyes were thousand of homes made of local material, scraps, anything to shelter tens of thousands of people. As we make our way to the food distribution, we are engulfed by a sea of little brown faces - children with smiles and hugs to greet us. I've found that on all my trips abroad - no matter how harsh the circumstances - the children find a way to smile. Over a loud speaker you can hear an aid worker calling out names of those to receive some

sugar, rice, oil, and other coveted means of sustenance. I notice the women clutching a laminated blue card. We talk to Hawaye AbdulKerim who explained that this card means that her family is registered to live in the camp and are entitled to receive food distributions. Before the war, Hawaye, and many women like her, had their own homes, cattle and nice clothing - and they desired nothing from anyone because they were self-sufficient. Now, they have been reduced to having only the clothes on their backs, a home made from scraps and a blue laminated card which signified anything but being self-sufficient.



NIGER



When we reached Nana's home, I was pretty nervous. I was about to meet the first orphan to be sponsored by Islamic Relief in Niger. We walk into this modest dwelling made of mud, which was one of three rooms that made up the family's home. We sit down with Nana and her uncle and his wife. With the aid of a translator, we spoke with this young girl about her life with her extended family. Her uncle took her in once her father died. It was hard for the family to cope with taking care of another child. At a time where the sweetness of sincerity and philanthropy could have soured, an Islamic Relief donor steps in to decrease the burden on this family. But truly this beautiful child could not be a burden, and this family with very little means can do nothing but beam with pride when talking about caring for this young girl.



MALI

Words that come to mind for our time in Mali would be gorilla case study reporting or field trip on steroids. Mali has the most projects and our longest running projects in West Africa. We had the potential of seeing hundreds of Islamic Relief programs and tens of thousands of beneficiaries. We spent the better part of our four hour road trip from Timbuktu dodging sand dunes, suffering from motion sickness and going from village to village visiting our work in the region. One of the most memorable projects were the gardening projects. These projects were run by local women's groups set up by IR. Islamic Relief provided assistance with logistics, training and start-up materials. The women are given the means to create income for their family by selling their vegetables at the market and putting food that they grew themselves on their tables.



MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER



Problem: One billion people worldwide live on less than \$1 a day, and more than a quarter of children under 5 in developing countries are malnourished.

Target: Reduce the number of people living on less than \$1 a day and the number of people who suffer from hunger by 50%.

2. ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION



Problem: 115 million children of primary school age are not receiving an education. Most of these children are from the poorest families where the mother has had no formal education herself.

Target: Ensure that by 2015 all boys and girls can complete a full course of primary education.

3. PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN



Problem: Gender equality is a human right and at the heart of the MDGs, but girls are often left behind in education, employment and decision-making.

Target: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education. Promote female-based income generation projects.

4. REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY



Problem: Every day, 300,000 children under the age of 5 die - that is 11 million children a year. Most of these deaths are caused by diseases that can be easily treated with inexpensive drugs.

Target: Reduce the mortality rate of children under the age of 5 by two thirds.

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS) ARE EIGHT WAYS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN SOME OF THE WORLD'S POOREST COUNTRIES. THESE GOALS WERE DEVELOPED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN 2000, WITH THE AIM OF ACHIEVING THEM BY 2015.

ISLAMIC RELIEF SUPPORTS THE MDGS, AND MANY OF OUR PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD ARE CONTRIBUTING TOWARD THIS GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN PROJECT.

5. IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH



Problem: More than half a million women each year die during pregnancy or childbirth. Many more women suffer serious injuries that, if left untreated, can cause lifelong pain and humiliation.

Target: Reduce the maternal mortality ratio by 75%.

6. COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES



Problem: 20 million people have already died from HIV/AIDS. Malaria continues to kill one million people a year.

Target: Stop the progress of, and begin to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases.

7. ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Problem: In sub-Saharan Africa, 42% of people do not have access to safe drinking water.

Target: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs, reverse the loss of environmental resources and reduce the number of people without access to safe drinking water by 50%.

8. GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT



Problem: More than 185 million people worldwide are unemployed - almost half of those are between the ages of 15 and 24.

Target: In cooperation with developing countries, create and implement strategies for decent and productive vocational employment for youth.

Coping Through Disability + Poverty

Feature



family lives in a slum area where most homes are one-room huts built from bits of concrete, plastic and tin sheets. Because Sami's mother earns very little money from her job, his older sisters had to drop out of school to work as domestic helpers to supplement the family's income.

Struggling to earn enough to meet their basic family needs, Sami's mother has been unable to pay for his medical needs. This is an all too common situation in the developing world, where one in five people have some form of disability, according to a study by the World Bank. Often the condition could have been prevented, treated or better managed if appropriate medical care and facilities had been available. Instead, only three percent of disabled people are able to get access to the care they need.

Fortunately, Sami is now being sponsored by an Islamic Relief donor, which means that with the money his mother receives for Sami's orphan sponsorship, he is able to attend school, receive medical treatments, and get new prosthetic limbs as he grows. Although life is still difficult for the family, Sami's quality of life has improved and he has a far better chance of completing his education. Seeing him play cricket with his friends, it is clear that given the chance, Sami will not let his disability hold him back.

Around one-tenth of the world's population suffers from some form of disability. For many, disability goes hand in hand with poverty. Living with a disability can push people further into poverty, and poor communities are often at greater risk of incurring injuries, suffering from deteriorating health and being unable to access specialist medical care.

Islamic Relief provides support for people with physical and mental disabilities through our various health and nutrition programs around the world, focusing on children who do not have access to the medical care they need.

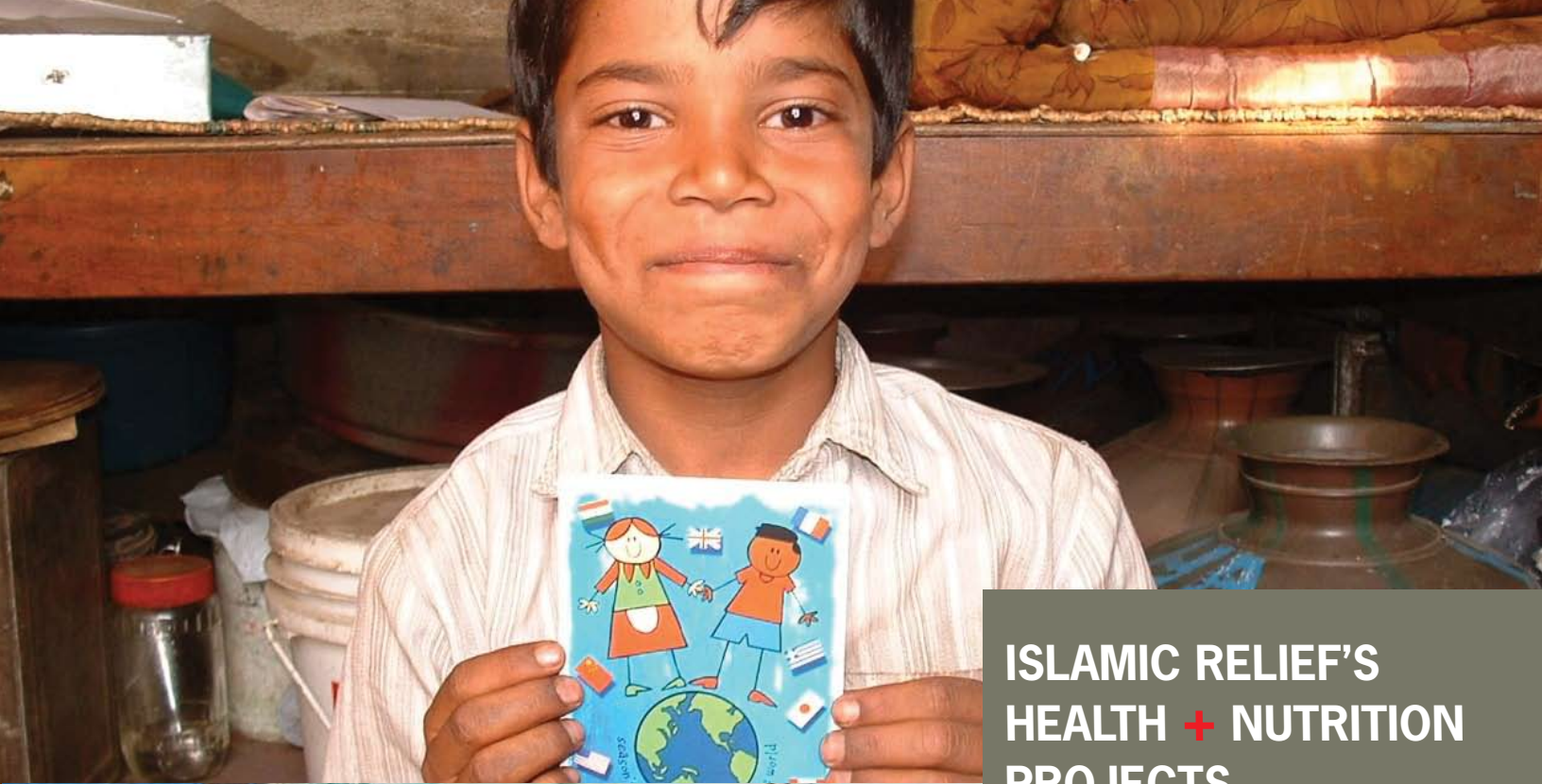
SAMI'S STORY

Playing cricket outside his home in Shikaripallya village near Bangalore in India, 9-year-old Sami is just like any other young boy his age. He likes playing

outdoors and spending time with his friends and family. But Sami is also one of over 400 million people in Asia who suffer from some form of disability.

When he was nine months old, Sami was involved in an accident that resulted in his leg being amputated. Statistically, his disability means he is far less likely to succeed in education and will continue to face problems in accessing the medical care he needs. Some estimates suggest that only 5 percent of people with disabilities have access to education, and global literacy rate for people with disabilities is as low as 3 percent for men and 1 percent for women.

Sami's family sank further into poverty when he lost his father. He was a year old at the time he was orphaned, and his mother has since been struggling to provide for him and his three sisters. The



ISLAMIC RELIEF'S HEALTH + NUTRITION PROJECTS

Providing access to health care and medication is fundamental in the fight against poverty. Healthy children can attend school regularly, giving them the opportunity to improve their future.

In addition to assisting orphans such as Sami with supplemental funding for their medical needs, Islamic Relief's health and nutrition programs include building, equipping and running health care centers; training midwives and traditional birth attendants; providing medication; and carrying out health and hygiene training.

Islamic Relief's Health & Nutrition projects include:

- Mother and child health care programs
- Construction and rehabilitation of medical clinics
- Distribution of medical equipment and ambulances to hospitals
- Farming programs to improve agriculture and food security
- School food for malnourished children
- Immunization and health checkups
- Physical and psychological care programs for traumatized war victims
- Raising health and dietary awareness in poor communities

Other projects Islamic Relief is supporting through our Health & Nutrition program exist in Afghanistan, Azad Jammu Kashmir, Bangladesh, Chechnya, Egypt, Kosova, Mali, Pakistan, Palestine, and Sudan.



REMINDERS...

Reflections of an Islamic Relief Worker by Natasha Issak



chosen to represent his people and their struggles to the world. He educated me that day when he stopped by our office, his tired stature not preventing him from his mission. In his unflagging hope for the future, I learned what it looked like to give everything.

Through my work at Islamic Relief, I have seen communities come together and give everything they've got to organize and raise funds and awareness for people in need in countries such as Palestine and Pakistan, and for the impoverished across Africa. Getting involved in fund-raising dinners, we get to know one another over a meal and make commitments to contribute to the cause. Since May, we have had four major fund-raising dinners in the New Jersey area alone, which brought together various communities for the sake of easing the severe living conditions of those who need it the most.

In July, students from Stony Brook's Muslim Student Association (MSA) invited Islamic Relief to put together a Darfur Fund-raising Dinner involving the Long Island community. It was Islamic Relief's first time in Long Island. The program included the respected Imam Abdul Malik, New York City Port Authority chaplain; Shamil Idriss, deputy director of the Office of the Alliance of Civilizations for the United Nations; teacher/comedian Preacher Moss from the "Allah Made Me Funny" tour and Yousef Abdallah, Islamic Relief operations manager for the Northeast. The speakers presented many points that echoed the same message: We all are capable of doing more, whether it is donating funds or donating time, it needs to be done.

I ask myself before I ask everyone else, "Am I doing all that I can? How do my efforts measure to the "mountain" man who has forever dedicated his life to provide relief for his community?" These are just a few of the things I try to remind myself.

Working with Islamic Relief, I've had the opportunity to meet people of extraordinary servitude and ambition. Every day I work with people who are passionate and driven, working to alleviate the suffering of their brothers and sisters in humanity. And yet, everyone, regardless of where they live, can have a part in the honor of serving our counterparts across the world.

I'm always reminded of an old gentleman who visited our office a short while ago.

He was a man of the indigenous people of Chitral living in the mountain villages of the north western Himalayan range of the Hindu Kush. People there are cut off from the world for a wintry six months where passage routes are completely closed off. No attention is given to these suffering families simply because the media hasn't covered their story.

This man, temporarily removed from his home, a traveler seeking aid for the people he could never forget or leave behind, has

SHARING THE GIFT OF FOOD IN RAMADAN

Close to 1 Million Beneficiaries Were Assisted by Islamic Relief Last Ramadan

Year after year, during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, Muslims all around the world partake in the ordained spiritual ritual of fasting, abstaining from food, drinks and conjugal relations from dawn to sunset. After a full day of fasting, there is nothing more welcomed than breaking one's fast with the iftar meal. However, iftar is a luxury many people around the world cannot afford.

To help alleviate this problem, Islamic Relief has introduced the Feed the Needy program. Feed the Needy is a seasonal project geared to helping those less fortunate enjoy the blessings of Ramadan by providing food packs consisting of essential items such as sugar, rice, flour, milk powder, cooking oil, and other items.

This Ramadan, for as little as \$20, you can help provide a food pack to feed a family of five.

HELP FOR HADIAH

Hadijah Qiblawi lives with her four children in Saida, Lebanon. She became a widow in 2005. Trying to provide food, shelter and clothing for her four school-aged sons - Nouraldeen, Bahaaldeen, Baderaldeen, and Mohammed - is difficult during normal circumstances, but has been especially difficult for Hadijah since her husband's death.

The family of five lives in a run-down house that is in dire need of repairs. She can barely afford to pay the \$150 per month for rent, let alone cover expenses for her children's increasing school fees.

Thankfully, Hadijah's worries were slightly eased last Ramadan. She was a beneficiary of Islamic Relief's Feed the Needy food package program, which aims to provide food assistance to widows, elderly, orphans, the disabled, and other vulnerable people during the month of Ramadan.

Hadijah and her family are grateful to Islamic Relief for the food package they received.

"I received a food packet from Islamic Relief during the blessed month of Ramadan that contained nutritious food which made us very happy," she said, "especially my children who loved the canned food and cheeses. May God Almighty reward those who bring



KATRINA: TWO YEARS ON

Islamic Relief continues to provide aid to the Gulf Coast, two years after the worst natural disaster to strike the U.S. Thus far, more than \$3.2 million in aid has been provided by Islamic Relief, benefitting more than 62,000 people.

Domestic Projects



TALE OF A SURVIVOR: MISS ELOUISE KENSEY

Grandmother of Seven Recounts Story of Recovery After Hurricane Katrina

Miss Elouise Kensey, a native of New Orleans, La. and a Hurricane Katrina victim, now resides in Baton Rouge, La. This strong woman, who was already battling leukemia before Katrina struck, was fortunate enough to be traveling when the storm ripped into the Gulf Coast and her home.

"I have custody of my seven grandchildren," she said, "and had we stayed somebody would have died. A tree fell on the house. We were lucky, blessed, however you want to call it."

While Miss Elouise was grateful for escaping with her life and the lives of her grandchildren, the destruction left by Hurricane Katrina and ensuing flood waters

made her home uninhabitable. Returning to New Orleans was not an option. Along with the seven grandchildren under her care, she migrated to Texas for three months before returning back to Louisiana and finding a place in Baton Rouge.

"I have been very fortunate and blessed for people to give me things in Texas where I was," she said. "The church gave me furniture and money and food, and when I got here, the Islamic Relief also helped me a lot with food and blankets and pots and toiletries. You know they helped me a lot. Sometimes money was short, but it always came, things that I needed I always got it."

Since their journey back to Louisiana, they have been able to find some stability. The

family recently moved into a home not far from the two-bedroom apartment the eight occupied for over a year. Even though Miss Elouise lost her home and her possessions during the hurricane, she still considers herself more fortunate than others.

"We're doing great right now, we're blessed," she said. "We lost everything, but we gained much more. Some people had much worse stories, sad stories, but mine is a happy one. I know people who have sad stories, lost family, lost their minds, a whole lot of things, but I was strong, I made it."

"Thank you! Thank you! Just knowing there are people like you to help us was amazing, overwhelming sometimes,"



HEALING WOUNDS

Clinic Established by Islamic Relief Serves Over 7,500 Victims of Katrina in Biloxi, Miss.

Even before Hurricane Katrina forever affected life on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the Coastal Family Health Center's east Biloxi clinic served the health care needs of the residents in the area. When the hurricane hit, the clinic was completely damaged and rendered nonfunctional. Seeing the need for medical relief in the region, Islamic Relief stepped in to purchase a double-wide mobile home structure to be converted into a primary health care facility. The cost of buying and installing the mobile facility was over \$46,000.

"Thanks to the generous donation of the Islamic Relief Double-Wide Clinic and equipment, we have been able to serve approximately 7,500 patients," said Coastal Family Health Center Executive Director Joe M. Dawsey.

Islamic Relief also provided the clinic with medicines and basic startup equipment, such as examination tables. The clinic operates with a staff of over 30 members, including physicians, nurse practitioners, dental staff, substance abuse counselors, and clerical staff.

"The major types of illnesses we have been treating in the clinic are upper respiratory

infections, injuries during cleanup, chronic illnesses, substance abuse and HIV," Dawsey said. "Besides medical services, we have added dental, HIV/AIDS services and substance abuse counseling in the double-wide."

In the short few weeks following the hurricane, the mobile home was purchased, the lot was cleaned and medical supplies and equipment were brought in to help the clinic back onto its feet. The city of Biloxi and Councilman Bill Stallworth assisted in reopening the clinic. The clinic staff of the damaged building were ready to work in the new facility once it was set up. The clinic is operating to this day and is the main place east Biloxi residents go to receive their health care.

Medications donated by Islamic Relief to the clinic group were distributed along the Mississippi coastal clinics in Biloxi, Long Beach, Gulfport, Bay St. Louis, and Vancleave.

"We appreciate all of the help given by Islamic Relief to Coastal and the people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and assure you that your generous donation will not be forgotten," Dawsey said.

she said, when speaking with those who contribute to the Islamic Relief's Gulf Coast compassionate relief effort.

"A couple of times I was this far from not having food," she said pinching her fingers together. "And it came right to the door from you guys. And it was just overwhelming, sometimes, the help I got. The people, the way they respond to our needs, it was overwhelming. It was great."

Miss Elouise stands as a true testament of the work Islamic Relief is doing in the Gulf Coast. After seeing the help Islamic Relief gave to their family, Miss Elouise's oldest grandson, a senior in high school, has been avidly volunteering with the organization.

CARING FOR THE CHILDREN IN CHECHNYA

Eleven-year-old Ahmed Daturzaev is one of more than 1,400 orphans in Chechnya currently supported by Islamic Relief's Orphan Sponsorship Program.

Ahmed lost his father when he was 1-year-old. His father was a policeman who died in the line of duty and was posthumously awarded with the Order for Bravery. While Ahmed cannot remember him, he tells his mother that he wants to be a policeman one day also. "I want to get the bandits," he used to say.

In May 2004, however, his dream was shattered. One day on his way home from school, Ahmed accidentally stepped on a land mine that exploded beneath his feet. In Chechnya, it is estimated that there are still more than 500,000 unexploded land mines and up to 10,000 victims of explosions. Ahmed is just one of many children who have been hurt by these dangerous hazards.

The explosion left Ahmed fighting for his life, requiring a life-saving emergency operation on his head that he had within six hours. Since then, he has had to travel to Grozny for four more operations and to Moscow for three more. Even today, he still requires additional operations. Despite the hard work of his doctors and nurses, Ahmed

is physically disabled and unable to walk. He also cannot talk, read, write, or count.

Following this tragic accident, the family's circumstances dramatically changed. Ahmed's mother, Zulai, and his four sisters now spend all their time caring for him. Given the harsh condition of their one-bedroom house - which has no running water or sewerage system - their task is even more difficult. In between caring for him at home, they have to endure many trips to various doctors, hospitals and specialists. Many of these are hundreds of miles away.

Islamic Relief's Orphan Sponsorship Program contributes toward alleviating child poverty in the world's poorest communities. For children such as Ahmed, the program aims to take care of the orphan's needs in terms of their health, education and social welfare. And while Ahmed may never grow up to be the bandit wheeling policeman he once dreamed to be, he still has a chance at a hopeful future thanks to the money his family receives for his orphan sponsorship.





Helping An Orphan Has Never Been Easier

- As little as \$33 per month can provide for an orphan's food, health and educational needs.
- Islamic Relief donors currently sponsor over 20,000 orphans and their families (100,000 beneficiaries) in 20 different countries.
- Sponsors receive an annual progress report with pictures and updates on the orphan's situation.
- Sponsors have the option to visit, send gifts or donate extra monetary assistance to their orphan.
- Want to stretch your money and reach even more orphans? The Orphan General Fund allows you to support orphan projects around the world.



Rebuilding Life After the Tsunami

Before the tsunami, 60-year-old Abdul Munir lived with his wife, daughter and two of his sons in Indonesia. When the tsunami hit Aceh's coastline in December 2004, Abdul Munir's wife, daughter and one of his sons were killed. "After the tsunami, I stayed in barracks and was unable to work. I felt hopeless," he says sadly.

In January 2007, Abdul Munir heard that his eldest son, Syuhada, had a baby girl and was moving into a new house built by Islamic Relief. Overjoyed at becoming a grandfather, he traveled to the village of Kajhu Indah to see them. After an unhappy time in the barracks of Aceh and the loss of his supplemental income, Abdul Munir decided to stay with his son.

Each night Abdul Munir leaves the house at 8 p.m. to go fishing. The fish that he catches are mostly for his family to eat, but sometimes he catches enough to sell. Slowly but surely, Abdul Munir is regaining the life he once had.

The tsunami killed more than 170,000 people and left over 500,000 homeless. Thousands of people are still living in temporary accommodations and struggling to restart their lives. So far, Islamic Relief has constructed more than 556 homes, 14 health clinics and six schools. In Kajhu Indah, 152 destroyed homes have been rebuilt, and a new water system and basketball court has also been constructed for the community.

Humanitarian Day 2007

Year after year, during the fasting month of Ramadan, thousands of volunteers across the nation participate in Humanitarian Day, a day dedicated toward providing food, clothing, medical care, and social services to people living in the most poverty-stricken areas of our nation. This will be the sixth consecutive year the event will be taking place.

Following the tremendous success of the 2006 event - which served more than 18,000 homeless and needy men, women and children in 14 cities - Islamic Relief hopes to help thousands more through the 2007 Humanitarian Day as it expands the program into 20 cities throughout the United States.

This year's Humanitarian Day for the homeless and needy will be taking place on the weekend of Sept. 29-30 in Los Angeles, Baltimore, Baton Rouge, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, New York, and Washington D.C. among other cities.

"This is a way to fix what people say about Muslims," said Newark, N.J., Mayor Cory Booker, who took part in last year's events. "This is what I want to see, the community working together."

To find how to donate or volunteer in this year's Humanitarian Day, please e-mail clareen@irw.org or visit www.irw.org.

For more information about the event, please visit www.humanitarianday.org.

Stretching Your Donation Through Corporate Matching Gifts

Many companies have programs through which they will match the charitable contributions made by their employees. Through corporate gift matching, your employer can multiply your contribution to Islamic Relief, making it go further.

Among Islamic Relief's many generous donors are a special group of employees at Microsoft who have made Islamic Relief the ninth largest recipient of matched gifts by the software conglomerate.

In 2006, nearly \$400,000 were donated to Islamic Relief by Microsoft employees and matched by the company. Islamic Relief is deeply grateful to the employees and management at Microsoft for supporting our work in alleviating poverty and providing hope and opportunities for millions of people across the world.

Islamic Relief is also listed in the catalog of the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area - a charity program for federal employees.

Employees or companies interested in donating may contact their human resources office to see if gift matching is offered, or they may contact Islamic Relief for more information.



Working Together Toward Relief and Development

In mid-April, hundreds of organizations, including Islamic Relief, participated in a large conference in Washington, D.C., with the theme “Setting a Bold Agenda for Relief and Development.”

Christina Tobias-Nahi, Islamic Relief director of public relations, was on hand to attend the 3-day event organized by InterAction - the largest alliance of U.S.-based international development and humanitarian nongovernmental organizations that work to overcome poverty, exclusion and suffering worldwide.

This networking organization also traces seven poverty-focused and humanitarian accounts including international disaster and famine assistance, migration and refugee assistance and others.

This year’s event featured a wide array of speakers, including renowned philanthropist George Soros as well as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

In addition to small-group workshops on a variety of topics and a first-time interactive program called Faith Traditions and Development that focused on women’s empowerment, participants went to Capitol Hill representing their organizations and encouraging members of Congress and their staff to support foreign assistance for development and humanitarian needs.

Islamic Relief Joins Alliance to End Hunger

On June 11, Islamic Relief joined other Muslim organizations in a stimulating roundtable focusing on issues of hunger and poverty. The event, organized by the Alliance to End Hunger, brought together businesses, nonprofits, religious groups, universities, governments, and individuals to share ideas, spark new collaborations and change the politics of hunger.

Each year in the United States, nearly 35 million Americans are threatened by hunger, including 13 million children. Many organizations and individuals are working hard to provide food assistance and advocating on behalf of the hungry. In a June national bipartisan poll conducted by the Alliance to End Hunger, American voters ranked hunger and poverty highest among moral issues.

Similar roundtables were held for each of the other major faith groups, followed by a collaborative interfaith event held at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. A video highlighting these activities and showing Islamic Relief’s Humanitarian Day distribution will soon be on the Alliance’s Web site.

A Healthy Partnership

In partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Burkina Faso, Islamic Relief provided over \$5 million of much-needed medicines to the West African country. U.S. Ambassador Jeanine Jackson handed the medicines over to the Ministry of Health at a ceremony on June 15, 2007.

“I am particularly pleased that a public-private partnership – that of Islamic Relief USA and the U.S. Government – and with the valuable assistance of the World Health Organization -- has been able to provide much needed medicines for use by the Ministry of Health throughout Burkina Faso to fight a variety of diseases,” Ambassador Jackson said at the ceremony.

The medicines provided can potentially help treat tens of thousands of individuals with various ailments.

In handing the donation over to the Health Minister, Amb. Jackson said, “Mr. Minister, in the name of the Government of the United States and Islamic Relief USA, I hereby donate these medicines to the people of Burkina Faso. I am sure these medicines will help improve the health of many men, women and children.”

After recognizing the need for urgently needed medical supplies in Burkina Faso, Islamic Relief worked quickly to assemble the shipment of medicines. This is Islamic Relief’s first aid shipment to Burkina Faso.

THINK.

Empowering Youth Through Action

Introducing our new resource page ...

We encourage you to think about the challenging questions and issues of our day and come up with innovative solutions to the problems that confront us.

Our first theme is: CLIMATE CHANGE

Questions to think about as you read this issue:

- How is the climate changing in your region?
- What will happen if trends continue this way?
- What is your role and responsibility in climate change?
- What can you do to help prevent this issue?
- What role do developed and less developed countries play in this problem?
- What are their responsibilities?
- Are recent extreme weather events—such as hurricanes, floods, droughts—due to global warming?
- What current conflicts arise around inequitable access to resources?
- Which future ones can you foresee?
- What measures can be taken to prevent such disasters?



CARE.

According to The Climate Institute in Washington D.C., an increase in the frequency or intensity of floods would be catastrophic in several places around the world. Perhaps no country is more vulnerable than Bangladesh. Over 17 million people live at an elevation of less than 3 feet above sea level, and millions more inhabit the flat banks of the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers. Past floods, occurring as recently as August 2007, have displaced millions in Bangladesh. Increased flooding in that area there would have tragic results.

While average global rainfall is predicted to increase under global warming, not every point on the planet would experience greater rainfall. Evaporation and precipitation occur at different places. While wet regions could receive even more rainfall if the planet warms, drier regions may have even more acute shortages of water as evaporation is accelerated in those areas. For example, the Sahel region in Africa—which is south of the Sahara Desert and north of the equatorial zone—has become drier over the past

several decades, accelerating desertification and placing an even greater premium on already-stretched water supplies.

Look at the images in the featured article about climate change. Which photos exhibit evidence of these problems? One photograph shows Islamic Relief workers planting trees; another shows a young girl trying to stay cool in the shade of an umbrella. Can you explain how these are tied together? Can you link other photos in terms of casual relationships?

ACT.

Undertake your own environmental observations - measuring variables such as air temperature and precipitation in your community and keep a running journal over time.

Look up information on water in your local community and the United States from:

- Environmental Protection Agency:
www.epa.gov/ow
- U.S. Geological Survey:
water.usgs.gov/watuse

Goal: To gain an understanding of the daily activities of obtaining water in different situations.

Choose another country that you wish to compare your local community with. Information can be found on the internet or at your library.

Compare your local community's water statistics with another country.

Where do we get our water?

Only X% of the population has access to safe drinking water. Find this number.

Most will not live in developed locations with piped water, and instead will have to use wells, hand pumps and water vendors. Many have to walk long distances each day to get water. Explain the specific circumstances here.

What is the geological source of water?

Examples - snowmelt from mountains, rainwater, etc.

How does water go from source to consumer? How clean is it?

In many countries, water is gathered directly from rivers or water wells. Unfortunately, most underdeveloped countries have unclean water sources.

How much water is consumed each day?

Most nutritionists say that six to eight glasses of water a day is adequate...

Tell us what you're doing to raise awareness or combat climate change – from recycling efforts to tree planting to conserving electricity. Send us your thoughts and ideas and we'll publish them in our next issue. We challenge you to make a difference!

We'd like to thank The Climate Institute in Washington D.C. and The Outreach Center at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University for their assistance in sharing their resources with us as we launch this new feature.

*We invite you to visit them online at:
<http://www.climate.org/topics/links/educational/teachers-links.shtml>
<http://cmes.bmdc.harvard.edu/outreach/about>*

RAMADAN *Zakah* Calculator

The Season of Boundless Giving



Zakah (required alms giving) is a duty on every mature and sane Muslim once every lunar year. In giving *Zakah*, a person is purifying their property, as well as their heart from all forms of greed or selfishness.

Zakah is payable at 2.5% of the wealth one possesses above the Nisab. This is the minimum amount of wealth one must have before they are liable to pay *Zakah*. This is equal to 3 ounces of gold. As of August 22, 2007, this is estimated to be \$1,980.

Zakah is liable on gold, silver, cash, savings, investments, rent income, business merchandise and profits, shares, securities and bonds.

Zakah is not paid on wealth used for debt repayment of living expenses such as clothing, food, housing, transport, education, etc.

Islamic Relief collects and distributes *Zakah* to those who are most in need, in accordance with Qur'anic guidelines.

To work out how to calculate your *Zakah*, fill out the form below. Remember you only pay *Zakah* if the zakatable total exceeds the Nisab.

Assets & Liabilities	Value
Cash at Home	\$ _____
Balance Held in Bank Accounts	\$ _____
Resale Value of Shares	\$ _____
Merchandise & Profits	\$ _____
Gold & Silver (at current value)	\$ _____
Property Held as Investment	\$ _____
Other Income	\$ _____
Assets Liable for <i>Zakah</i>	\$ _____
Deduct Debts	\$ _____
Deduct Expenses	\$ _____
Total Amount Subject to <i>Zakah</i>	\$ _____
<i>(Ensure that the total exceeds nisab)</i>	\$1,980
 Your <i>Zakah</i>	 \$ _____
<i>(0.025 x Zakatable Total)</i>	
<i>Zakat al-Fitr</i>	\$ _____
<i>(\$8 to \$10 per person)</i>	



Islamic Relief

A Worldwide Leader in Alleviating Poverty

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For four years in a row, Islamic Relief USA has been recognized as a 4-star charity by Charity Navigator, its highest rating. Of the 5,131 charities evaluated by Charity Navigator, only 4% have received this prestigious distinction.

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