



Partnership

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30 MILLION AFFECTED BY FOOD CRISIS IN AFRICA ISLAMIC RELIEF LAUNCHES \$10 MILLION APPEAL

Islamic Relief is urgently responding to the escalating hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa regions of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, where food shortages have left millions at risk of starvation.

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Abdur Qadir Hussain, fourteen-year-old Islamic Relief beneficiary in Mandera, Kenya.

MILLIONS AFFECTED BY FOOD CRISIS IN AFRICA ISLAMIC RELIEF LAUNCHES \$10 MILLION APPEAL

More than 30 million people are going hungry in the Horn of Africa region, according to the United Nations's World Food Program (WFP). The U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization is warning that 27 sub-Saharan countries now need help, 15 of which are in dire need of immediate assistance.

Over 3.5 million people (including over 500,000 children) in Kenya, 1.7 million in Ethiopia, and 1.7 million in Somalia are in desperate need of food aid. Countries suffering from the food crisis are experiencing a devastating drought and inefficient supplies of food rations for the last few years.

The U.N. Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Kjell Magne Bondevik, has described the crisis as "a silent tsunami. That is why public awareness is not so high -- the drought has had a gradual, terrible impact where the tsunami was sudden and dramatic."

In the Mandera District of Kenya, 75 percent of the households are at risk of famine and 40 percent of families are experiencing water shortage. The food shortage has also created deprivation of 50 to 75 percent of household livestock.

Islamic Relief's Response

Islamic Relief has allocated an initial budget of \$600,000 and has launched a worldwide appeal of \$10 million to provide emergency assistance for the starving populations of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

Kenya

In Kenya, Islamic Relief is providing weekly nutritional support to over 1,750 vulnerable children and mothers in five locations to prevent severe malnutrition. The majority are children under the age of five and expectant or nursing mothers. A monthly Complementary Food Program is providing nutritional supplements for at-risk families. The food ration consists of cornmeal, beans, sugar and cooking oil.

The supplementary feeding program is currently being expanded and additional centers are expected to be established in four more divisions (Ramhu, Hareri, Ashabito and Warabgara), with the goal of assisting 10,000 moderately malnourished children.

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AFRICA FOOD CRISIS *(continued from page 2)*

Primary Health Care and Sanitation Services are also to be established and delivered in all seven divisions. In conjunction with the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF), Islamic Relief is conducting an immunization and health campaign, providing measles and polio vaccinations and Vitamin A supplements.

Malnutrition screenings are taking place for thousands of children under the age of five, to monitor improvements and prevent malnutrition. This is being maintained with an ambulance program to transport severely underfed children to the Mandera Therapeutic Feeding Center and the Mandera Hospital.

Islamic Relief is providing 10,000 liters of water every other day to approximately 4,000 people in two locations. A major water source in Fino is being rehabilitated to supply the thousands of locals. Two additional water source rehabilitations are planned in the areas of Lafey and Arabia.

Ethiopia

Islamic Relief is utilizing 6 water tankers to distribute water in the areas of Charatti and Hargelle. The lack of clean water is a major reason for the suffering and affliction of the population.

Somalia

In Somalia, Islamic Relief's planned projects include health education, water and sanitation, capacity building and orphan programs. For the current emergency, tentative plans have been mapped to purchase a drilling rig for emergency water wells.

Established in response to the 1984 African crisis, Islamic Relief's recent work on the continent includes efforts in Darfur, Sudan, as well as assisting the victims of the food crisis in Niger and Mali. The Niger and Mali projects aim to help over one million people with food and medical aid. In Darfur, refugees and displaced people have been provided with shelter, education, and medical aid.

The WFP's country director in Kenya has warned, "Many Kenyans - facing a fifth consecutive season of failed or poor rains - are already living on the edge and unless donors respond immediately, we fear for the worst."

A great deal of attention and assistance is needed to help the victims of the ignored food crisis in Africa. Those interested in helping may call the Islamic Relief office or visit our website, irw.org for more details. •

Islamic Relief has been dedicated to providing food and clean water to beneficiaries in the Africa since 1984, and has been aiming to assist 1 million people with food and medical aid in the last years.



ISLAMIC RELIEF STAFF MEMBER VISITS MANDERA, KENYA

In February of 2006, Islamic Relief staff member, Shamiq Hussain traveled to the Horn of Africa regions to assess the Food Crisis firsthand. The following is an account of his trip:

In mid-February, I visited the Horn of Africa as a member of Islamic Relief's delegation to assess the food crisis affecting that part of the continent. Our trip from Nairobi to Mandera, in Kenya, began as many others do, with boarding a flight and loading luggage - except that the flight was a day late and the bags were loaded from the tarmac not into a luggage hold, but onto our laps.

After a bumpy ride on the twin engine Cessna, (their new ad campaign should be "You've never experienced a 25 foot drop, until you've experienced it in a Cessna") we arrived at the dusty military air strip that served as the airport for the Mandera District.

The area was an immediate departure from the relatively mild climate of Nairobi. The naturally hot and dry conditions in Mandera have been exacerbated by a drought that has afflicted the region since 2003. As the Cessna made its approach, all we could see was desert; miles of burnt orange sand speckled with the husks of dry bushes. It was part beautiful and part frightening.

More than 30 million people across Africa are going hungry, according to the United Nations World Food Program. Just in the two countries that the Islamic Relief delegation visited, over

3.5 million people in Kenya and 4.9 million people in Malawi have been facing food shortages due to the current drought and depletion of food resources.

The local Islamic Relief staff informed us that during years with normal rain, the area produces abundant flora and fauna. Traveling from Los Angeles - where air-conditioners are considered a human right and SUVs a necessity - to a place with a desperate lack of water was deeply humbling.

From the very first moments of our trip, we experienced the poverty of the local Manderans, the majority of whom are of Somali ancestry. Mandera is small and quaint, in an African way. There is a local dirt soccer pitch, where children often play; small businesses and shacks that sell everything from t-shirts to tea; as well as a Kenya Mail post office, which serves as a primary conduit to the outside world.

The majority of the district, however, is populated by small villages of pastoralists that herd sheep and goats. This livestock is the primary means of income and sustenance for the people of Mandera and the drought has hit these animals the hardest. The size of the livestock herds has dwindled dramatically as the water level has dropped.

See MANDERA, KENYA, next page

Islamic Relief staff member, Shamiq Hussain (2nd from right), working with members of Islamic Relief Kenya.



MANDERA, KENYA

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Abdul Qadir, a local pastoralist, explained that as the local shallow well's depth dropped from 40 feet to past 80 feet, it became harder and harder to retrieve the water necessary to keep the goats surviving. The lack of rainfall has killed the shrubbery that he used to depend on to provide food for his goats.

In addition, the water has become infected with malarial larvae and tape worms, which has made it unsafe for humans to drink and has caused the animals to become ill. Over the past couple of months Abdul Qadir's emaciated and sickly herd has dwindled to half its size, leaving him almost completely dependent on aid for survival.

"The children are suffering. Some of them are ill because of hunger. My youngest baby cried last night from hunger – she is one year and seven months old," Abdul Qadir told us.

We found this story to be common among the villagers we spoke to in many areas throughout the district. However, despite the hardship they are suffering, I was personally affected by the stoic way in which the villagers took their predicament. We could see the weary sadness in their eyes after dealing with three years of severe drought, but they would always explain their situation calmly, with a hint of urgency.

The malnourished children I saw in Mandera emphasized the reason for that urgency in the voice of the elders. After three years of drought, Mandera, and indeed, much of the Horn of Africa, is on the brink of famine.

The carcasses of the animals that Manderans depend on for their survival lie baking in the sun. The once mighty river Duau, that forms the border between Northeast Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia, has been reduced to a stream. The pack animals of the townspeople are used to transport water over

long distances, but they have also begun dying off and lay along the route to the river. One by one, the pillars of Manderan subsistence and survival are crumbling.

The week that we spent in Mandera passed quickly, yet the suffering and dignity of the people there has left a lasting impression on me. The day before we left Mandera, we witnessed six thousand people praying for rain at the main mosque. The sight was characteristic of my experience, with the desperation just barely showing under the patient appearance of the Manderans. As we waited on the dusty military strip for the plane that was to take us back to Nairobi, I could not help but admire their resilience and make a small prayer of my own for their well-being. •



After three years of drought, everything dies from thirst and hunger, even livestock. Local pastoralist, Abdul Qadir, looks over carcasses of animals.



Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese citizens have been left without life's basic needs.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

ISLAMIC RELIEF SENDS AID TO LEBANON AND PALESTINE

With violence in the Middle East escalating since the end of June, a previously bad humanitarian situation has turned worst. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese have been left without life's basics and now rely on humanitarian aid for survival.

Daily survival for Palestinians is a desperate struggle: travel restrictions have caused over 50% unemployment; families are left impoverished and dependent upon aid to survive; and over two thirds of the population (approximately 2 million people) lives below the poverty line on less than \$2 a day, resulting in rising rates of acute malnutrition, especially amongst children.

In Gaza, the recent violence has left approximately half of the 1.4 million population without water. Health professionals are concerned about the public health consequences of decreased electricity in households, which could lead to outbreaks of communicable diseases. In June 2006, the World Food Program reported that 51% of Palestinians – 2 million people – were unable to meet their food needs without aid, and that in Gaza “the situation is becoming critical.”

“There are few places on earth where so many people are dependent on humanitarian assistance as in the Palestinian areas, and in particular Gaza,” said the United Nations’ Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland.

In Lebanon, thousands of refugees have fled their homes, many leaving on foot, trekking through rocky terrains after roads and bridges were destroyed. There is an urgent need for life's basics: food, water, blankets, medicine, etc. Many houses, bridges, and main roads leading out of the affected areas have sustained damage and are affecting people's abilities to leave the area. This is also affecting access to food (especially bread) and medical care. The total number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) is now believed to be upwards of 500,000 people. Many of the IDPs are being temporarily housed in schools and other governmental buildings.

Islamic Relief's Response

Islamic Relief is continuing to implement its ongoing projects in Gaza, and the West Bank, as best it can under the circumstances. An ongoing emergency food distribution program has already distributed food parcels, with enough basic food to last 11,000 families for a month in the Gaza Strip and is in the process of distributing to a further 2,000 families. With funds availability permitting, this project will be expanded to cover another 20,000 families in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

An emergency medicine distribution project also took place in Gaza providing hospitals with some of the basic medicines required.

Islamic Relief has distributed diesel fuel to enable water to be pumped from wells to provide drinking water. Ten mobile water tankers have also been provided to help distribute 1,500 liters of clean water.

Diesel fuel has also been provided to the central blood bank in Gaza to enable them to operate and keep blood fresh and usable. Surgery gowns have been provided to five hospitals in the Gaza Strip and Islamic Relief is currently fixing a kidney dialysis machine at Beit Jala hospital in the West Bank.

Islamic Relief has also allocated funding to instantly respond to the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon. Islamic Relief is working with other organizations on the ground, reporting an urgent need for basic food packages, clean water, blankets, mattresses and medicine. Islamic Relief is also checking on the status of the 698 orphans sponsored via the one-to-one sponsorship program.

With the immense need for humanitarian assistance in the Middle East region, Islamic Relief is urging donors and supporters to respond with the utmost generosity. •

ISLAMIC RELIEF IN INDONESIA HELPING THOUSANDS REBUILD THEIR LIVES



ISLAMIC RELIEF STAFF MEMBERS ANWAR KHAN (LEFT) AND MISBAH SHAHID (RIGHT) REPORTING FROM INDONESIA

On June 18, 2006, Islamic Relief staff members Anwar Khan and Misbah Shahid [photo to left] traveled to Banda Aceh, Indonesia to assess the progress of the post-tsunami and post-earthquake projects. Islamic Relief has been working in the Banda Aceh area since December of 2004, when a deadly tsunami struck, and continues working in the area. Almost a year and a half later, the Java earthquake devastated the country. To complicate relief efforts further, increased volcanic activity at the nearby Mt. Merapi [photo to right] threatened the livelihood of thousands. Islamic Relief has taken the necessary steps to help support the disaster victims in Indonesia. The following pictures, taken by Khan and Shahid, showcase a few of the projects Islamic Relief has been implementing since these tragedies struck.



MISBAH SHAHID IN FRONT OF THE ERUPTING VOLCANO, MOUNT MERAPI

LEFT: Islamic Relief sponsors 400 hundred orphans in Indonesia; 36 of these orphans at the Baabulnajah Orphanage are sponsored by Islamic Relief USA donors.
CENTER: Islamic Relief rebuilt the Labuy School after the tsunami. Out of the 200 students who used to attend the school before the tsunami, only 85 survived and continue to study there.
RIGHT: In Kaju Indah, Islamic Relief is constructing 302 houses; each house is 45 square meters and consists of two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a bathroom.



BOYS AT THE BAABULNAJA ORPHANAGE DRESSED IN TRADITIONAL GARB



GIRLS FROM THE SBN LABUY SCHOOL, WHICH WAS CONSTRUCTED BY ISLAMIC RELIEF



ONE OF THE 302 HOUSES ISLAMIC RELIEF BUILT IN THE KAJU INDAH DISTRICT OF BANDA ACEH



ISLAMIC RELIEF STARTED THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS INITIATIVE GROUP, A LIVELIHOOD PROJECT THAT CREATES JOBS



IN ADDITION TO 100 HOUSES CONSTRUCTED IN UHLAYLI, ISLAMIC RELIEF ALSO BUILT THIS CHILD CARE CENTER



ISLAMIC RELIEF BUILT HOUSES FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS WHO WERE LIVING IN TEMPORARY SHELTERS FOR OVER A YEAR.

LEFT: Islamic Relief implemented vocational training and livelihood projects such as the Women's Business Initiative Group in Ketapang that provides women with a place to work and equipment to work with.
CENTER: In Uhlayli, Islamic Relief built 100 houses and this Child Care Center. At no cost to the parent, this Child Care Center is a daycare facility which engages children in educational activities and local culture.
RIGHT: During a formal hand-over ceremony, Islamic Relief gifted the members of the Sigli community with 50 permanent houses. Many of these families had been living in temporary shelters for the last 18 months.

LEFT: After the recent earthquake, Islamic Relief has been appointed to be responsible for maintaining one main village--which consists of 17 sub-villages. Their projects are helping approx. 20,000 beneficiaries.
CENTER: In the sub-village of Bulus Kulus, Islamic Relief supports the 280 families that reside there by providing and distributing hygiene kits.
RIGHT: Islamic Relief has worked in Indonesia since 2000, distributing food and assisting people affected by natural disasters. Since then, Islamic Relief has built schools, hospitals, homes and helped thousands of people return to work.



ISLAMIC RELIEF SUPPLIES MUCH NEED PROVISIONS TO RESIDENTS OF 17 SUB-VILLAGES, INCLUDING BULUS KULON



THESE GIRLS RESIDE IN THE ISLAMIC RELIEF SPONSORED SUBVILLAGE OF BULUS KULON



SPECIAL THANKS FROM ALL OUR ISLAMIC RELIEF STAFF MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS IN INDONESIA.

INDONESIA EARTHQUAKE

ISLAMIC RELIEF RUSHES AID TO SURVIVORS OF THE JAVA, INDONESIA EARTHQUAKE

On Saturday, May 27, 2006, a deadly earthquake struck Indonesia's main island of Java. The 6.2 magnitude earthquake killed and injured thousands, leaving the island and its inhabitants in shambles.

According to recent reports, the death toll of the affected area has surpassed 5,700, with a reported 33,000 injured, and over 647,000 displaced. Children constitute 40percent of the homeless and injured.

The Indonesian Health Minister, Siti Fadillah Supari, described the situation as "very serious." Medical facilities found themselves overwhelmed with the injured and short on medical staff and resources. Victims found themselves in immediate need of food, water, hygiene kits, and over 5,000 emergency tents and temporary shelters.

"Our priorities are very much in health, hygiene and water," said UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) spokesman John Budd. With over 135,000 homes destroyed in the Bantul district, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are forced to openly defecate due to the collapse of most homes and lack of sanitation facilities.

Over 30,000 people were reported injured during the Indonesia earthquake, 40% of whom are children.

Relief efforts in the affected area were further stalled by the lack of electrical power in nearby villages. Phone connections had been irregular at best. The water supply was contaminated due to damage sustained by pipelines as a result of the earthquake.

In addition to the immediate rescue and relief efforts, a new concern surfaced: increased volcanic activity in nearby Mount Merapi, Indonesia's most dangerous volcano. The surrounding area has been on high alert and the volcanic eruptions and emissions since the earthquake has caused more than 15,000 villagers to flee their homes.

Islamic Relief's Response

Islamic Relief, with established offices in Indonesia, responded instantaneously to the needs of the victims. An Emergency Response Team was dispatched immediately to evaluate the situation and provide \$928,000 of initial relief in the form of clean water, food, blankets, hygiene kits, and many other items. Islamic Relief also launched a worldwide appeal of \$3.7 million to help the victims of the earthquake.

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INDONESIA EARTHQUAKE



Almost a year after the tsunami, Indonesia found itself faced with another catastrophe, a 6.2 magnitude earthquake.

INDONESIAN EARTHQUAKE

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On May 30, 2006, three days after the earthquake struck, Islamic Relief, in coordination with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, airlifted over \$1.6 million of in-kind aid [photo below]. Islamic Relief France sent in-kind donations of clothing, hygiene kits, and food valued at over \$72,000. Islamic Relief and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have worked together to respond to recent emergencies such as the tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, and the Pakistan Earthquake, to name a few.

Islamic Relief's emergency team has been concentrating on providing clean water and temporary shelter provisions, which is severely lacking on the ground. Islamic Relief has distributed over 4,000 family hygiene kits and bed sheets. Seven-hundred and fifty family-sized emergency tents have been provided to the victims by Islamic Relief Pakistan and external suppliers. These tents have been accommodating 3,750 beneficiaries.

Islamic Relief is distributing emergency food-items (including water, rice, instant noodles, baby formula, tea, coffee, sugar, biscuit, cooking oil) and non-food items (approximately 4,000 kitchen sets and blankets each) to community members in the most effected areas in Kecamatan Jetis, Bantul District.

Emergency medical staff from Islamic Relief and three other aid groups from Banda Aceh flew into the affected areas bringing much needed supplies such as a water purification unit and 10,000 water purification packets, 500 blankets, 48 boxes of canned beef, and emergency medical supplies.

In light of dozens of lava bursts and nine small gas emissions from Mount Merapi, Islamic Relief has provided 500 additional family-size emergency tents to the evacuees. These tents can accommodate 2,500 beneficiaries.

Aiming to supply relief and reconstruction to the victims of the affected areas, Islamic Relief has dedicated itself to supporting a village, comprising of 17 sub-villages, with temporary shelter restoration and distribution of tents. To date, 10 sub-villages have been completed, aiding over 11,000 beneficiaries.

In December 2004, Indonesia was hit by a devastating tsunami that claimed over 170,000 lives and left more than 500,000 people homeless. Islamic Relief's post-tsunami activities have benefited approximately 150,000 people in Indonesia thus far, collecting over \$29 million of aid in the form of cash, pledges and in-kind donations. •

Islamic Relief, in collaboration with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, airlifted over 1.6 million of in-kind aid to help the victims of the Indonesia earthquake.





Almost two years after the tsunami hit, life in Indonesia is finally getting back to normal thanks to Islamic Relief's post-tsunami reconstruction efforts.

ISLAMIC RELIEF MEETS WITH UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL ENVOY'S OFFICE FOR TSUNAMI RELIEF

Islamic Relief staff members held a meeting with Bill Clinton's office of the United Nations Special Envoy for the Tsunami, on February 6, 2006 in New York. Islamic Relief's Director of Policy and Institutional Affairs and Operations Manager for the Northeast Region were joined by Saji Prelis of the Washington Network for Post-Tsunami Reconstruction Roundtable.

On December 26, 2004, a tsunami struck slightly off the mainland of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, and even reached to parts of Africa, killing over 230,000 people across Asia and affecting millions. In the Indonesian province of Aceh, a reported 170,000 people lost their lives and over 500,000 were left homeless. Islamic Relief's post-tsunami activities have benefited about 150,000 people so far just in Aceh, Indonesia.

Nazare Albuquerque, NGO (non-governmental organization) liaison for the Special Envoy's office, conducted the meeting. Albuquerque was pleased to be meeting with Islamic Relief and requested Islamic Relief's assistance in connecting with people on the ground in Sri Lanka and Aceh to get a better assessment of post-tsunami recovery efforts. The week following the meeting, Albuquerque visited Islamic Relief projects in Sri Lanka. Eric Schwartz, Deputy Special Envoy, also visited the region and asked Islamic Relief's input on how to make his trip a successful one.

Topics of discussion included the status of post-tsunami work and the challenges that are faced by NGOs. Albuquerque stated that the priorities of the Special Envoy's office consist of leaving behind a stronger civil society and establishing better coordination mechanisms for recovery efforts. She also expressed the office's interest in diversifying livelihoods and donor sustainability.

The Islamic Relief representatives also met with Jehane Sedky-Lavandero, spokesperson for former U.S. President Bill Clinton. Sedky-Lavandero discussed the status of media interest with regards to the tsunami, stating that while interest has faded, new opportunities have to be looked into to bring back awareness. Events such as the launch of the early warning system in June and the release of assessment studies in the fall could provide opportunities to bring back awareness.

A meeting was also held with Elisabeth Faure, the liaison with the private sector. Though the period of corporate giving for the tsunami is over, Faure discussed other ways to involve the private sector. Concerned about reporting on how funds have been spent, the private sector could use positive reporting or feedback as a means of cultivating hopeful relations. Faure also mentioned that the private sector can support recovery and development efforts through transfer of skills and technology as well as through investment in the region, both helping with the diversification of livelihoods.

The meetings with representatives of the U.N. Special Envoy and Islamic Relief had extremely positive outcomes. Nazare Albuquerque lent her full support for Islamic Relief's tsunami response efforts. The U.N. Special Envoy's office was eager to hear suggestions from Islamic Relief to improve upon the efforts of the U.N. agency.

Islamic Relief remains committed to assisting victims of the tsunami while most of the world's attention has shifted elsewhere. Islamic Relief looks forward to future collaboration with groups such as the U.N. Special Envoy and others to perfect response efforts after disasters. •



Islamic Relief meets with the U.N. Special Envoy, former President Clinton's office, in Sri Lanka to assess the tsunami aftermath.

SRI LANKA AFTER THE TSUNAMI: RECONSTRUCTING HOMES, RESTORING LIVES

Islamic Relief worked closely with United Nations Special Envoy, former United States President Bill Clinton's office, to assess the status of post-tsunami reconstruction efforts in Sri Lanka. Working with the Washington Area Network for Post Tsunami Reconstruction Roundtable, staff from Islamic Relief met with Clinton's Senior Aid and NGO (non-governmental organizations) liaison, Nazare Albuquerque, from the U.N. Special Envoy's office for Tsunami Reconstruction in New York.

Islamic Relief's Director of Policy and Institutional Affairs was invited by Albuquerque to accompany her on an assessment trip in Sri Lanka to identify problem areas in the response efforts.

Islamic Relief helped facilitate the U.N. delegation's trip in Sri Lanka, introducing them to areas and peoples being overlooked during much of the reconstruction efforts. The delegation was familiarized to Islamic Relief's efforts on the ground and also visited an Islamic Relief-run housing project in the Ampara District. The team also visited villages in the North East and Islamic Relief's Kalmunai office. The tour also included meeting displaced populations housed in Islamic Relief's temporary shelters constructed with funding from the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

Islamic Relief presented its work in tsunami reconstruction and expressed interest in working with Bill Clinton's office to see that tsunami recovery efforts are not forgotten before the work is completed. The

discussion centered around continual relief efforts and an improved coordination of international relief agencies on the ground. Because of large monetary influx directly after the tsunami, many relief agencies moved forward in individual efforts of assistance instead of coordinating with one another. This led to duplications and gaps in the work; wasting vital resources directly needed for recovery efforts. Islamic Relief took a leading role in addressing this issue with the Special Envoy's office.

Along with Islamic Relief, Albuquerque additionally attended a series of meetings during the trip, including a substantive meeting with Islamic Relief's Sri Lanka office and with a Provincial Council member who discussed the recovery process and other important issues such as child trafficking. After a meeting with other active agencies in the area, Islamic Relief's Sri Lanka office was appointed as the coordinating agency for continuing reconstruction efforts.

Islamic Relief arrived in Sri Lanka two days after the tsunami and immediately began emergency operation, focusing on the badly effected Ampara District. Essential survival items like food and hygiene kits were distributed and transitional shelters were built to house the homeless. Islamic Relief also began clearing debris and providing counseling for recently widowed women and orphans.

Since the end of the emergency phase, Islamic Relief's work in Sri Lanka has been focusing on two crucial areas: providing shelter for vulnerable families and supporting widows and orphans. •



Wyoming Senator and Chairman of the Senate's Committee Michael B. Enzi speaking at the Hurricane Katrina Roundtable in Washington D.C.

ISLAMIC RELIEF PARTICIPATES IN SENATE ROUNDTABLE ON KATRINA RELIEF

On March 7, 2006, Islamic Relief--along with representatives of other national aid organizations--was invited to Washington D.C. for a roundtable discussion regarding the humanitarian response to Hurricane Katrina. The roundtable was organized by the U.S. Senate's Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

In a letter to Islamic Relief, Chairman of the Committee, Wyoming Sen. Michael B. Enzi and Ranking Member, Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy said they "applaud the important work" that Islamic Relief has carried out in response to Hurricane Katrina.

The focus of the roundtable centered around the contributions of groups like Islamic Relief and the ability of community-based and non-profit organizations coordinating future relief efforts with others on the ground, such as local, state, and federal agencies. Along with Islamic Relief, other attendees--such as the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, America's Second Harvest, and the Interfaith Alliance--were encouraged to share their experiences of what methods of relief worked and what did not based on the monumental national response to Hurricane Katrina in the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Many constructive suggestions and ideas were discussed to improve future responses to disasters and create a close and coordinated relief effort in conjunction with government agencies.

Some of Islamic Relief's suggestions included government support of organizations carrying out important projects on the ground, dealing with legal barriers that hinder relief efforts, placing essential services such as warehouses and registration sites close to the affected area and population, and empowering the local communities to stand on their own once relief organizations leave the area.

Chairman Enzi expressed his hope of using the suggestions provided by the panelists to construct an improved response among aid organizations and the various levels of government.

Islamic Relief immediately responded to the needs of the victims of Hurricane Katrina -- one of the greatest natural disasters in United States history. Islamic Relief has committed \$2 million for Katrina relief projects, which include working in the affected areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and assisting evacuees in Houston and Dallas, Texas. Islamic Relief's rehabilitation and relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina represented the largest domestic operation in its history.

In thanking Islamic Relief for its participation, Sen. Kennedy said, "I commend you for all you have done so well and for all you continue to do each day. You're vital to the strength of the Gulf Coast communities you serve and essential to making them whole once more." •

HURRICANE KATRINA: ONE YEAR LATER... ISLAMIC RELIEF CONTINUES ITS WORK IN THE AREA



One year after Hurricane Katrina, Islamic Relief's efforts continue to play an important role in the lives of survivors. A family in New Orleans enters an Islamic Relief distribution site.

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 remains committed to helping victims of the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

Islamic Relief has maintained full-time staff in the region since the disaster struck. From initial assistance of emergency food and shelter to ongoing distributions of much-needed food and non-food items, Islamic Relief has attempted to meet victims' needs with the resources available.

Some highlights of Islamic Relief's efforts include feeding evacuees from the New Orleans Astrodome in Houston, establishing a clinic in Biloxi and helping families move into homes in Jackson, and maintain deliveries of supplies to numerous locations in Baton Rouge and New Orleans, LA.

Islamic Relief has also collaborated with partners such as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Globus Relief, and AmeriCares to meet the needs to the victims. •

MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR RECOGNIZES ISLAMIC RELIEF'S KATRINA EFFORTS

Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour recognized Islamic Relief and other aid groups and volunteers who have helped in the post-Katrina recovery efforts on the state's coast. At a picnic in Central Park in New York on June 10, Mississippi natives from the city came to show their appreciation to those who took part in the relief efforts.

Among other issues facing the residents of Mississippi, finding affordable housing continues to be the biggest struggle. Gov. Barbour said, "Housing is the biggest issue that we have, particularly affordable housing."

In Mississippi, Islamic Relief aided Katrina victims in Biloxi, Jackson, and Pearlington. Besides establishing a much-needed medical clinic, Islamic Relief worked with the local city councilman and Oxfam to establish the Coordination and Relief Center, which helped bring resources into the area and organized the distribution of goods and services.

Speaking about Islamic Relief, Gov. Barbour said, "If you look at an organization like Islamic Relief, or other organizations that derive out of religious institutions, they have been critical to our recovery. Their volunteers have come and they keep coming and they keep coming. We're very grateful." •



Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour (left) and Islamic Relief staff member Yousef Abdallah (right) at the Mississippi Katrina Recognition Picnic in New York's Central Park.



Islamic Relief staff members Munir Iqtish, Anwar Khan, and Yousef Abdallah with Islamic Relief beneficiaries in Dhirkot, Pakistan.

“THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT BUT RUINS”

On Monday February 20th, 2006 a team from Islamic Relief USA traveled to Pakistan to observe the hardships that earthquake survivors are experiencing, and to appraise the situation for future development. The nine day visit covered four districts in Kashmir: Muzaffarabad, the capital of Kashmir; Bagh; Rawalakot; and Dhirkot. The team returned to Islamabad and then took another trip to Mansera and Rawalpindi to meet with orphans. The following is a brief description of portions of their trip:

Muzaffarabad

During our visit to Muzaffarabad, we went to Jalalabad Camp. This camp used to be a park for the children in the city. Well, not any more; I wonder if the kids will ever look at this place as a park again. After entering a few tents, I realized that there is a sad story inside every tent in the camp. Houses collapsed... family members died in the quake... jobs lost... the peace and comfort gone. The kids were trying to find any little space to play their favorite game, cricket. Women were washing clothes outside by the water; waste water runs in small open canals inside the camp. Five months after the earthquake struck, people are still wondering what tomorrow is holding for them.

Rawalakot

After the aid distribution, we went to another area to visit more beneficiaries. Talking to people, we found out that the only school in the area (a private school) was partially damaged in the earthquake and kids are afraid to go back inside. The school had to build tents -which were donated by Islamic relief - next to the school.

We met with the principal, Sajid Khurshid, and he told us that there are 684 students in the school, 200 of which are exempt from paying tuition. “Education is a mission for me,” Khurshid said. “This school has been here for the last 18 years, and now we don’t know what to do. There are no public schools in the area, and I cannot see the children not receiving the proper education.”

It was raining heavily when we arrived to that area, but to our surprise, the principal was working in the rain trying to secure the tents. “The school is going to open next week and I want to make sure it’s ready for the students,” he said.

Dhirkot

The team left Rawalakot on Sunday morning to go to Dhirkot. The

road became a river, about a foot high. Alhamdulillah (all praise is to Allah), we were able to pass through safely.

After a light breakfast, we were on our way to one of the remote areas - a village that was totally demolished when the earthquake shook that region. One hundred and thirty houses were flattened to the ground in the village. Islamic Relief initially provided the residents with tents to seek shelter. Then, in partnership with the Hilton Foundation, Islamic Relief helped build 84 houses, and plans to rebuild the remaining houses in the near future.

Mansera and Balakot

When we arrived in Balakot, the car stopped next to ruins. The local team told us that there were 601 houses in that area alone, and only one single house survived. The other 600 houses collapsed, and over 1,350 people died in this small area, the highest concentration in the region.

There was nothing left but ruins. There was a bridge near by, which was shifted several feet from its location. A huge mosque was flattened to the ground. Then a local Islamic Relief 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 in that area.

A day before we went to Balakot, a landslide on the road from Mansera to Balakot pushed a small bus to the river, killing 19 people and injuring two. We saw the damaged bus on our way out of town.

We interviewed three orphans in the town of Balakot, one of whom lost her parents, grandmother, and an older sister in the earthquake. Sanam, a beautiful 11 year old girl, survived the quake with her other sister. When we asked her 14-year-old sister to tell us what happened, she broke into tears when she started recalling the events. Even though I could not understand what she was saying, I found myself helpless and began crying. Islamic Relief used to sponsor 74 orphans before the earthquake, now we are sponsoring about 500 orphans and the goal is 600 orphans in Balakot alone.

Even months after the earthquake, the situation was still bad. The survivors of the earthquake will need the aid and support of donors for years to come. •

PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE

ISLAMIC RELIEF CONTINUES DELIVERING MUCH NEEDED AID TO VICTIMS OF THE DISASTER

The largest earthquake to hit South Asia in a century devastated the region on the morning of Saturday, October 8, 2005. The 7.6 magnitude earthquake affected Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan, destroying entire towns and villages.

Over 73,000 people are reported dead, and an additional 2.8 million have been left homeless. Over 5 million people total have been affected by this disaster, including 69,000 who have been injured. Eighty-four percent of the victims are from rural areas. An estimated 70 percent of the health infrastructure has been damaged beyond use. The earthquake's epicenter was close to Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-administered Kashmir.

More than half a year has passed since the tragic event, yet the danger and need greatly remains for earthquake survivors. "There will be a continued risk of landslides as the snow starts to [melt] in the spring and even more so later in the year when the monsoon season sets in," said United Nations Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, Jamie McGoldrick. "Road accessibility will remain a major challenge, and it is expected that there will be a continued need for a minimum of five to six helicopters until at least September."

The cost of rebuilding affected areas is expected to top \$5 billion.

Islamic Relief's Response

Immediately after the earthquake, Islamic Relief began acting as one of the lead humanitarian organizations in Pakistani-administered Kashmir. With its established offices in Pakistani-administered Kashmir, Islamabad, Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Dhirkot, Rawalakot, Forward Kahuta and Neelum Valley, Islamic Relief was able to provide life-saving services to the survivors.

Islamic Relief has raised over \$30 million in aid (including in-kind donations) to assist victims of the earthquake.

Islamic Relief has supported over 340,000 earthquake victims with emergency relief projects, including distribution of food and water, warm clothing, shoes, blankets, kitchen sets, and medical supplies. In addition, Islamic Relief established shelters, mobile health clinics, and water and sanitation projects throughout the affected areas. A \$500,000 grant from The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation helped fund a project to provide short-term and long-term shelter.



Also, approximately 1.7 million people have benefited from Islamic Relief's Road Re-Opening and Access Project, which cleared landslides to open roads for aid to be delivered to the affected areas.

Long-Term Development

Long-term recovery efforts from the earthquake will be a lengthy process, taking many

SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE



Islamic Relief has raised over \$30 million of aid for the survivors of the South Asia Earthquake that struck in October of 2005.

years. With much of the initial relief work focused on providing emergency aid, Islamic Relief has turned its attention towards long-term reconstruction and rehabilitation initiatives. Islamic Relief's sectoral focus will be on: shelter, health, water and sanitation, education, food security, and sustainable livelihoods. Following is a list of long-term development projects Islamic Relief plans to undertake to assist the earthquake victims:

- Reconstructing schools and establishment of education system (estimated beneficiaries: 40,500 students; estimated budget: \$12.9 million)
- Construction of low-cost housing for vulnerable groups (estimated beneficiaries: 35,000 (from housing) + 1,200 (from construction); estimated budget: \$17.5 million)
- Integrated livelihood support, micro-finance and income generation
- Rebuilding 100 schools and provision of teacher training, supplies and equipment
- Resettlement project supporting 15,600 individuals to facilitate reconstruction activities after the clean-up operation; encourage self-sustainability by providing earthquake victims with a source of employment
- Psycho-social support and vulnerable groups protection
- Orphan sponsorship programs
- Construction of two mobile and two permanent clinics in Bagh, one of the worst-affected areas, for a six month period. Solely funded by Islamic Relief and implemented by HMD Response International, the \$138,137 project will provide healthcare services to about 40,000 people.
- Building basic health units and clinics in rural areas
- Sustainable community rehabilitation and development

Islamic Relief continues to bring relief and remains committed to helping the victims of the most devastating disaster in Pakistan's history. •



Moin Khan and Rashid Lateef, former captains of the Pakistan National Cricket Team, interview earthquake survivors in Pakistan.

PAKISTAN CRICKET STARS JOIN ISLAMIC RELIEF IN ASSISTING EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS By Anwar Khan, Islamic Relief Staff Member

Moin Khan and Rashid Lateef, former captains of the Pakistan National Cricket Team, visited the earthquake-affected areas of Kashmir in March. They were accompanied by myself, as well as Haris Khan, a former star cricket player.

Islamic Relief has been assisting victims of the South Asia earthquake since October 8, 2005 and has had a permanent presence in the affected areas since 1998. Khan and Lateef visited some of the major camps for displaced people in Muzaffarabad, Kashmir and had a chance to interact with many of the evacuees. Although several months have passed since the earthquake, the situation in the camps is still difficult. The evacuees are doing the best they can and are preparing to return to their destroyed homes, which they will try to reconstruct after the closure of some of the camps.

There were still landslides on the road from Muzaffarabad to Neelum Valley, and our delegation had a first-hand look at the difficult journey. The day after Khan and Lateef returned to Islamabad, 18 people died in a landslide nearby. Khan and Lateef visited six villages, including Leswa, Keran, Kathaband, and others. They helped in food distribution and interviewed many of the beneficiaries; many of whom shared stories of losing loved ones in the quake.

Khan and Lateef discussed the problems the evacuees were still facing - what aid they have received, and what they are still receiving. Many of the evacuees were amazed that these celebrities had taken time out of their busy schedules to come and assist them. At a time when there is not much attention on their daily struggles, they appreciated that donors, relief workers, and celebrities still cared enough to visit them. Khan and Lateef were asked to play a short cricket match with some of the local youth on the Line of Control (military control line between India and Pakistan, in the province of Kashmir), as they enjoyed a few

light moments with their guests.

Islamic Relief is distributing food to nearly 100,000 beneficiaries in the Neelum Valley. The food is mostly brought to Islamic Relief's base in Kutn, using Chinook helicopters. Islamic Relief has a clinic in Neelum Valley, with an underground bunker, which was used to accommodate patients during times of heavy conflict. The clinic, situated near the Line of Control, was damaged several times during the conflict until two years prior when the cease-fire was issued. Khan and Lateef were told about how Islamic Relief staff, at times would walk for two days to reach the affected villages. They witnessed the appreciation that many of the beneficiaries felt towards Islamic Relief, which has been working in the region for several years.

Khan and Lateef were extremely moved by their experience and are looking forward to revisiting Kashmir and other earthquake-affected areas. They also agreed to visit the United States to support Islamic Relief in its fundraising efforts to continue post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation work in Kashmir.

In a campaign entitled "Rebuilding Lives, Restoring Hope," Khan and Lateef were invited to tour the following cities last April to share their experiences: San Diego, Anaheim, and Fremont, CA, Chicago, IL, Tampa, FL, and Dallas, TX. The events in these cities raised approximately \$673,000 in cash and pledges for victims of the earthquake.

Just as the earthquake victims in Kashmir were impressed by the consideration of these cricket players to take time out to visit them, so were the attendees at the benefit events here in the United States. It is these types of sacrifices - whether of time or money - that will be continuously needed to help rebuild lives and restore hope to the victims of the tragic earthquake. •



Islamic Relief participants in New York's Fight Hunger: Walk the World march.

ISLAMIC RELIEF JOINS WORLD FOOD PROGRAM TO FIGHT WORLD HUNGER

On Sunday, May 21, Islamic Relief joined forces with more than 760,000 people in 118 countries and 420 locations, across 24 time zones, to participate in *Fight Hunger: Walk the World*. Walkers from around the globe marched together in the unified fight to end child hunger.

Created by the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), *Fight Hunger: Walk the World* raised much needed awareness and money that will aid the WFP's global school feeding program that offers meals at school to some of the world's most vulnerable children.

Hunger is the biggest threat to health. Last year, more people died due to hunger and malnutrition than from AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. There are 852 million people in the world who know what it is like to be hungry. Every five seconds, another child dies of hunger.

"If we ignore child hunger, it remains a daily reality that ravages millions and goes unseen by most. We are bringing this otherwise invisible problem into the spotlight and moving citizens and governments to action," said Arlene Mitchell, WFP Director of *Walk*

the World. "There is no excuse for children to be chronically hungry, day in and day out in the 21st century. The world community still has to make a huge progress in order to improve the lives of children. *Fight Hunger: Walk the World* makes a step forward on the path."

For the second year in a row, Islamic Relief showed a strong presence in the *Walk the World*, and took care of the \$20 walker registration fee for all their participants and distributed water bottles to walkers in Santa Monica, CA, Baltimore, MA, Washington DC, New York City, NY, Alexandria, VA, and San Francisco, CA.

One walker from Alexandria, Virginia said, "[We] were greeted at the end of the walk by members of the international development agency Islamic Relief, who came bearing water bottles labeled 'Islamic Relief supports the United Nations World Food Program in the fight against child hunger.' Thanks to Islamic Relief for their generosity!"

Islamic Relief hopes to continue working with the WFP in their *Fight Hunger: Walk the World*, expanding their presence in even more cities in the years to come. •



Pat Evans [third from right], Mayor of Plano, Texas, helps Islamic Relief celebrate the opening of Islamic Relief's fifth office in the United States.

ISLAMIC RELIEF OPENS ITS FIFTH U.S. OFFICE IN DALLAS, TEXAS

LOCAL LEADERS ATTEND LAUNCH OF NEW DALLAS OFFICE

Aiming to expand its reach to more regions and continue its growth, Islamic Relief opened a new office in Dallas, Texas. The new office, which staffs three employees, will coordinate community outreach and fundraising programs across the South Central region of the United States.

An office launch celebration was held on Friday, March 24, 2006. Several community leaders joined in the celebration, including the Mayor of Plano, TX, Pat Evans. Also in attendance were Dr. Yusuf Kavakci, Imam (leader) of the Islamic Association of North Texas, Sadia Ahmed of the Freedom and Justice Foundation, and representatives of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

Mayor Evans participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the office opening. She was elated to see Islamic Relief establishing a permanent presence in her community. Evans noted that Islamic Relief's new office in Dallas will be a "good partnership...we will support each other through a symbiotic relationship." Evans further stated that she looks forward to Islamic Relief embracing the local community and working together for the common good.

Also taking part in the ceremonies was Khalil Meek, Vice President of the Dallas/Fort Worth chapter of CAIR. Meek applauded Islamic Relief's efforts and mentioned how Islamic Relief is fulfilling an important need in the community. "We all have needs, things to share, talents, etc. This is a wonderful partnership. Islamic Relief is helping fulfill an important obligation in our community by helping those less fortunate."

In addition to its national headquarters in Buena Park, in Southern California, Islamic Relief has established offices in Totowa, New Jersey, and Detroit, Michigan. The Dallas staff includes National Development Director Anwar Khan, Office Administrator Eman El-Haraty, and Regional Development Coordinator Azhar Azeez.

"We're excited to be in a metroplex that is known for its generosity. Our presence here has always been encouraged by community leaders, donors and volunteers." said Operations Manager Ahmed. "We plan on helping locally by implementing projects and globally by raising and distributing funds where needed. We hope to be an integral part of the community in the South Central region." •



Islamic Relief teams up with other local groups to distribute food to needy families in inner-city Detroit.

ALLEVIATING HUNGER IN THE U.S. ISLAMIC RELIEF & LOCAL MUSLIM GROUPS DISTRIBUTE UDHIYA MEAT

Islamic Relief, in cooperation with the Islamic Shura Council of Michigan, CAIR-MI, and Gleaners Food Bank, culminated its month long Udhiyah/Qurbani* campaign, distributing approximately 12,000 pounds of meat to families in Detroit, MI. Participants of the initiative were elated with the positive results, especially considering that it was a first-time pilot project.

“Al-hamdulillah (all praises are due to Allah), the response from our community was incredible,” said Islamic Relief development coordinator Misbah Shahid, who is based in the Detroit Metro area. “This is the first year of our program here in Michigan and we received over 10,000 pounds of meat - a significant amount. We expect the response from the community to only increase over the years.”

Unlike Islamic Relief’s global projects, this program allowed Islamic Relief to distribute a significant amount of Udhiyah/Qurbani meat to needy populations right here in the United States. Poverty levels in inner cities of major metropolitan areas are soaring. As the economy struggles, so does the need for more domestic programs. Although the amount of donations and meat distributed was significant, there are still hundreds of more families that could be helped. Islamic Relief hopes to continue and expand this project in the coming years.

“This is a great program and great opportunity to take this ritual of our religion and help out the less fortunate in our local community,” said Mitchell Shamsuddin, director of CSCDC the Detroit Muslim Mission soup kitchen. “The impact that this will make every Eid al-Adha will be looked forward to by the community and emergency food providers, such as our soup kitchen and Gleaners Food Bank, around Detroit.”

If you would like to help plan a local Udhiyah/Qurbani project in your area, please contact Islamic Relief at info@irw.org.



*Udhiyah/Qurbani is an Islamic religious practice performed at the time of Eid al-Adha (the 10th day of the Islamic month of Dhul al-Hijjah) involving the sacrifice of an animal. This holiday commemorates the sacrifice Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) made to god to show his devotion and commitment to Him.



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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.