



ISLAMIC RELIEF USA



PALESTINE



AFGHANISTAN



SOMALIA



SOUTH SUDAN

Islamic Relief USA welcomes the new Sustainable Development Goals!

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At Islamic Relief USA, we wholeheartedly applaud the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, and we are pleased to welcome the new Sustainable Development Goals that form the international community's roadmap for 15 years to come. This work of reducing poverty and improving living conditions for all is closely in line with our goals as an organization, and with the teachings of our faith. We look forward to working with likeminded groups to help further these goals.

A Closer Look: Islam and the Sustainable Development Goals

According to Islam, humans are created to be caretakers of the Earth and its inhabitants. Many Islamic teachings support the goals chosen by the international community. Some examples follow:

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Islam decreed the concept of alms-giving through Zakah to help end poverty in society.

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

- The Qur'an says in the chapter called "Small Kindnesses": "Have you seen the one who belies the religion? He is the one who pushes away the orphan and does not urge the feeding of the needy." (107:1-3)
- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "A person is not a believer if he eats his fill while his neighbor goes hungry."
- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "If a Muslim plants a tree or sows seeds, and then if a bird, or a person or an animal eats from it, it is regarded as charity for him."

Goal 3: Insure healthy lives and promote well being

- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) urged moderation in eating, and urged people to seek healthy exercise.
- The Quran urges people to seek cure in case of illness.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- The Quran is full of verses urging people to learn. The first verse revealed was: "Read."
- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "The position of only two people is enviable; the person whom Allah bestowed wealth empowering him to spend it in the way of righteousness, and the person whom Allah gave wisdom that he uses and teaches to others."

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- The Prophet Muhammad's wife Khadijah was his employer.
- While granting revolutionary social rights for women, Islam set standards for followers that did not make difference between people because of gender: "O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted." (Qur'an, 49:13)

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The best charity is giving water to drink."
- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) warned people against polluting water sources.
- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught conservation of water. Once he passed by a man who was making ablutions to pray, and he said, "What is this extravagance?" The man said, "Is there extravagance with water in ablution?" The Prophet said, "Yes, even if you were on the banks of a flowing river."

Goal 7: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught his companions to help those in need to find a way to work. Once a man came to him, begging for help. The Prophet helped him sell items in his home and buy a tool so he could earn a living.

Goal 8: Reduce inequality

The Prophet, peace be upon him, said: "O mankind, your Lord is One and your father is one. You all descended from Adam, and Adam was created from earth. He is most honored among you in the sight of God who is most upright. No Arab is superior to a non-Arab, no colored person to a white person, or a white person to a colored person except by Taqwa (piety)."

Islamic Relief USA's Projects

Islamic Relief USA's vision "Working together for a World Free of Poverty, Inspired by Islamic Faith," and many projects further the aims of the Sustainable Development Goals. Here are some examples:

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- Example: Zakah distribution in the United States helps families get back on their feet in financial emergencies.
- Example: Rebuilding greenhouses damaged in the 2014 winter storm in the Middle East so families can lift themselves out of poverty.



Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

- Example: Food distribution programs alleviate hunger in emergencies worldwide.
- Example: Irrigation systems and agricultural training for women in Niger.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well being

- Example: Emergency health care in conflict zones.
- Example: Building an oncology unit in the Nelson Mandela children's hospital in South Africa.
- Example: Mental health care provided to children who witnessed violence in Central African Republic.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- Example: Education for low-income students in South Africa.
- Example: Literacy, numeracy and business training for women in Afghanistan.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- Example: Small-business support empowers widows.
- Example: Community organizations in Pakistan involve women to make decisions for their communities.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- Example: 135 community members trained to maintain new and repaired water sources in Ethiopia.
- Example: 23 bathrooms with showers constructed for refugees in Syria.

Goal 7: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- Example: Post-graduate training in Palestine teaches specialized technical skills, as well as workplace success courses on soft skills like innovative and critical thinking.
- Example: Course offered homeless women in the U.S. tailoring skills as well as equipment to start their own businesses.