



# Partnership

RAMADAN 1427  
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## SPECIAL RAMADAN EDITION

The Official Newsletter of Islamic Relief

### Touching the Lives of Those in Need:

Meet the people you have been supporting through Islamic Relief

#### Hope for Ramadan Page 2

Magdi Krazem has a rare illness that requires him to spend five days a week in the hospital, leaving him unable to provide for his six children. Islamic Relief was able to help Magdi, along with tens of thousands of other families in need with Ramadan food packages. "We were almost a dead family," said Magdi, "and Islamic Relief helped us create a better life."



#### Educating the Future Page 3

Nine-year-old Eva is lucky to have survived the horrible tsunami that struck her home in Aceh, Indonesia. Sadly, Eva lost her grandmother, her home, all her possessions, her school, and more than 150 of her fellow classmates in the tsunami. Islamic Relief built a new school for Eva in Labuy village, creating a better learning environment than the students and the teachers had before the tsunami.

#### Restoring the Past Page 4

74-year-old Jansari Sharipova has faced years of tribulations in post-conflict Chechnya. But as her health and her home slowly deteriorate, Jansari finds herself less and less able to get by living on her own. "I didn't expect anyone to come to my aid," she said. Through your continued support, Islamic Relief is able to provide food for Jansari and the thousands like her by handing out Ramadan food packets.



#### Improving the Future Page 5

When Hamdi's father died, leaving behind a wife and 11 children, she found herself homeless. Her family erected a small hut on a friend's plot of land, but eviction is always a looming fear. Luckily, Hamdi is sponsored by an Islamic Relief donor, supplementing the family income and allowing Hamdi to have an education. "If it were not for Islamic Relief," she said, "I wouldn't have been able to go to school."

#### Hope Beneath the Rubble Page 6

Naseema and her five children live in the Mera Tonolian Camp in Muzaffarabad. After losing her husband and her father-in-law in the earthquake, Naseema feels like she has also lost all her happiness. Islamic Relief is working hard to give Naseema, her five children, and the hundreds of others living in her camp a sense of normalcy and regain their happiness.



# HOPE FOR RAMADAN

## PALESTINE: FAMILY SUPPORT

With mounting social and political unsteadiness in the Middle East, life for the Palestinian people has become increasingly miserable. The vast majority of the population is completely dependent on humanitarian aid to survive. With 31 percent of the population unemployed, substandard daily life has left most Palestinian families with nothing more than hope to hold on to. Islamic Relief has initiated various projects and programs that aim to alleviate the pains of poverty while offering Palestinians more opportunities.

Islamic Relief has established the Ramadan Project in Palestine, a seasonal project during the Islamic holy month, devoted to distributing food aid to the underprivileged and impoverished Palestinian people. Last Ramadan, Islamic Relief distributed approximately 17,000 food packages to families in need.

Magdi Krazem, 35, was a beneficiary of Islamic Relief's Ramadan Project. Due to a chronic illness that requires him to spend 5 days a week in the hospital for daily blood washes, Magdi is unable to provide for his six children. Hope was quickly disappearing in the Krazem household.

"My family is hopeless and I am completely disabled to do anything in order to change the reality of my family. I can not afford to pay the rent of the house...my monthly income is zero," Magdi wept as he explained. "Islamic Relief knocked on my door to relieve me and my children who are starving, sponsoring my family and providing us with a Ramadan food package which means a lot for me and my children."

"I thank *Allah* (God Almighty), then Islamic Relief for their help," said Magdi. "We were almost a dead family and Islamic Relief helped us create a better life. I cannot forget the smiles on my children's faces when Islamic Relief brought us food packages in Ramadan."

The Krazems are one of thousands of families who have been sponsored by Islamic Relief through the Family Sponsorship Program. Now Magdi is able to pay his electricity and water bills, provide his children with school books and uniforms, as well as pay for his medical needs.

*Now you can help families like the Krazems through Islamic Relief's Feed the Needy program which supplies food to thousands of families in 26 countries around the world during the month of Ramadan.*



# TEACHING THE FUTURE

## INDONESIA: POST-TSUNAMI RELIEF

Nine-year-old Eva from Aceh, Indonesia, was rescued from the tsunami by her father. She was lucky to survive but lost her grandmother, her home, all her possessions, and her school. More than 150 of the students at her school also died.

Eva now attends a new school built by Islamic Relief in Labuy village. The school was constructed to high standards, providing children with a better learning environment than they had before the tsunami. Head-teacher Mrs. Roshni said, "All the children were really excited about the new school. It is a sign that things are returning to normal."

Eva's father is also being supported by Islamic Relief through its Livelihoods Project. A taxi driver by profession, he lost his car in the tsunami and was worried about how he would support his family. Islamic Relief provided him with a motorized rickshaw that has helped him earn a living once again. He is happy to be able to buy Eva the books she needs for school and support her education.

*An estimated 75,000 children were orphaned in the tsunami that struck 12 different countries in Asia and East Africa on December 26, 2004. Islamic Relief and its donors are providing long-term support to over 340 orphans in Aceh alone. Those in need of psychosocial support after the tragedy were helped in overcoming their trauma through taking part in recreational activities like art therapy and summer camps. If you would like to help a child orphaned by the tsunami, please call us today at (888)479-4968 or email [orphansupport@irw.org](mailto:orphansupport@irw.org).*



# RESTORING THE PAST

## CHECHNYA: FEED THE NEEDY

Jansari Sharipova, 74, lives alone in a village that has been at the center of the conflict between the Russian Federation and Chechnya for almost 10 years. For Jansari, life has been a tireless cycle of loss and tragedy. Within a matter of months, both Jansari's husband and son disappeared; an occurrence that is unfortunately far too common in this area. The following year, her family home was destroyed by a direct shell hit, forcing her to live in a barrack for six years.

The conflict has claimed over 100,000 lives and has left towns and cities in ruins. At least half of Chechnya's pre-

war population is now displaced or dead. And like Jansari, they have had to endure miserable living conditions: filthy, overcrowded quarters and a lack basic food, medication, clean water, and sanitation.

Thankfully, Jansari was able to move into a trailer three years ago that was given to her by the head of the local administration. "It's much more comfortable in the trailer than in the barrack, there is some space for the furnace."

Despite being one of the most valuable things in Jansari's house, the furnace emits large amounts of smoke filling the trailer and making it hard to breathe. Cutting wood to make fire is also extremely painful for her due to a huge tumor on her hand. Jansari has nobody to help her with these tedious chores. Besides the furnace, Jansari has a bed, small table, some worn utensils, and ragged clothes.

When Islamic Relief visited Jansari to give her the traditional Ramadan food packet, she humbly told them, "I didn't expect anyone to come to my aid." Through tears, maybe of gratitude or bitter loneliness and grief, Jansari confessed, "I would never think anyone would remember me...May *Allah* (God Almighty) reward you and your families for your work."

The situation in Chechnya remains uncertain. War will always be destructive, and while villages and towns can normally be rebuilt, lives rarely can. Islamic Relief will continue to help the Chechen people like Jansari regain their dignity after years of hardship.

*Jansari is supported by Islamic Relief's Feed the Needy program, a seasonal program that supplies food to needy families during Ramadan. In addition, Islamic Relief also operates orphan sponsorships, healthcare, and water sanitation programs in Chechnya. Log onto [www.irw.org](http://www.irw.org) for more information.*



# IMPROVING THE PRESENT

## AFRICA: FOOD CRISIS

Hamdi is 13 years old and lives in Mandera, Kenya. Her father died of natural causes, leaving behind a wife and eleven children. His death was a shock to the family. Hamdi's mother, Fatuma, was nine months pregnant at the time. Life was difficult for them already, even before the drought.

Six months after Hamdi's father died the family could no longer afford to pay the rent. Seeing them homeless, a neighbor allowed them to erect a small hut on his plot of land until they were able to get back on their feet again. Months later, they still live and sleep in the same single-room hut, fearing the day they are asked to leave.

Fatuma tries hard to give her children a good upbringing despite their situation. "I can't begin to tell you how hard it's been," she told Islamic Relief. "My children cry at night and I cry with them. I can't control it. The tears just come out."

Fatuma's struggle to provide for her children has recently been eased by Islamic Relief. A donor has agreed to spon-

sor Hamdi, supplementing the family income and allowing Hamdi to have an education. "If it were not for Islamic Relief, I wouldn't have been able to go to school," said Hamdi, "but now I have books and even a school bag to carry them in!"

Hamdi enjoys studying and does well in most subjects. Her day starts early with morning prayer, Qur'an studies, and then breakfast, followed by a full day at school. One day, she hopes to be a doctor.

"It is important to work hard at school because the whole world is going to be hard," said Hamdi. "It is very bad to give up in life. Muslims should never give up. That's what my mother says."

*Over 30 million people are facing the impending threat of starvation in the Horn of Africa. Islamic Relief has launched a worldwide \$10 million appeal to urgently respond to the escalating hunger crisis in Africa. As little as \$600 a year can supply food for a family of five. Please donate today.*



# HOPE BENEATH THE RUBBLE

## PAKISTAN: EMERGENCY RELIEF

Naseema Bibi lives in Mera Tonolian Camp in Muzaffarabad with her five children. She lost her husband and father-in-law in the earthquake. She also lost all her happiness, she told Islamic Relief.

“I was sitting in the house when the earthquake happened. My son Atif and I managed to escape but my husband and father-in-law were crushed under the rubble of the collapsed roof. We were all crying for help. My brother-in-law rushed to help but it was too late by then. It was all over in an instant.”

Naseema cried as she recalled how suddenly her life changed. Before the earthquake she had a comfortable and happy family life. Her husband was a contractor earning up to 20,000 rupees a month and her children went to an English school. Now they can afford very little. “When the earthquake happened my children and I had no food for five days. I had no possessions left but an empty tin box.”

Naseema relies on food distributed by the United Nations World Food Program (WFP). She also receives help from

Islamic Relief Pakistan. Naseema, like many others, has been given essential survival items including blankets, quilts, health and hygiene items, jerry cans, clothes, shoes and buckets. Islamic Relief has also installed water facilities and toilets for her family and other camp residents.

“We are all missing our home,” she told Islamic Relief. “We cannot sleep in tents.”

“We feel unsafe and helpless. But I have a strong belief in *Allah* (God Almighty) and I’m grateful to Islamic Relief and everyone who has helped us. At the time I wish I had died with my husband but then I thought about my children. I did not want them to be at the mercy of others. If nothing else, I will live and work to bring up my children.”

*Islamic Relief has raised over \$30 million in aid (including in-kind and cash donations) to assist the victims of the earthquake. To date, over 1 million people have been helped by Islamic Relief’s work in Pakistan. However, much more needs to be done to help the earthquake survivors rebuild their lives.*



# ZAKAH CALCULATOR

## AN EASIER WAY TO DONATE

*Zakah* (mandatory almsgiving) is the third ‘pillar’ in the Islamic faith. Muslims believe that 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, which is equal to 3 ounces of gold. As of the beginning of Ramadan, *nisab* is estimated to be \$1,804.

Zakah is liable on gold, silver, cash, savings, investments, rent income, business merchandise as well as 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 Islamic guidelines.

The form on this page will help you calculate your zakah. Remember, you only pay zakah if the “zakatable” total exceeds the *nisab*.

*Now you can calculate and directly donate your zakah to one of Islamic Relief’s many projects around the world. Try our simple online calculator: [www.irw.org/ramadan](http://www.irw.org/ramadan), or call (888) 479-4968 to donate over the phone.*

### Assets & Liabilities

### Value in U.S. Dollars

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	\$ _____
<b>Total Assets Liable for Zakah</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
Deduct Debts	\$ _____
Deduct Expenses	\$ _____
<b>Zakatable Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
Ensure that Zakatable Total Exceeds <i>Nisab</i> *	<b>\$ 1,804</b>
<b>Your Zakah (0.025 x Zakatable Total)</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

\*As of September 27, 2006.

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# Have you donated your zakah today?

Islamic Relief operates a wide variety of projects including one-to-one orphan sponsorships in 18 countries worldwide. Use your zakah to help an orphan today.

(888) 479-4968 • [www.irw.org/ramadan](http://www.irw.org/ramadan)



**Islamic Relief**

*a worldwide leader in alleviating poverty*

(888) 479-4968

[www.irw.org](http://www.irw.org)

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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.