



ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM POLICY STATEMENT

Important Information – Please Read Carefully

Effective August 1, 2019

Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA) recognizes the special responsibility and duty of care to create a safe environment for children. IRUSA's mission, vision, and Code of Ethics state the organization's commitment to fulfilling the rights and respecting the dignity of each person, including children, regardless of color, race, religion, or creed. Islamic Relief USA recognizes the need for strict child protection policies and procedures, and the need to ensure that they are implemented throughout our humanitarian responses, thereby safeguarding children in all areas of our work. The Orphan Sponsorship guidelines detailed below are in place to ensure the safety and welfare of vulnerable orphans and offer them protection from exploitation or abuse.

- The location (country) and first name of a child will be withheld until the sponsor has been identified. Islamic Relief will never publish or make public the last name, address, telephone number or e-mail contact of any of the children or their families.
- Sponsorship is based on the agreement that sponsors will not attempt to contact the orphan or their family by any means without the specific permission of Islamic Relief USA.
- Sponsorship may be cancelled if a donor does not comply with program policies and procedures or if they display behavior towards Islamic Relief USA staff that is deemed inappropriate or fail to disclose any criminal activity or safeguarding allegations made against them.
- The sponsor and orphan are free to exchange correspondence via Islamic Relief USA, however, all postal material must conform to Islamic Relief's policy.
- Photographs and other data posted on the website or shared with the sponsor are for the purpose of supplying potential sponsors with relevant information about the Orphan Sponsorship Program. The information and photographs may not be downloaded, copied or replicated without the express permission of Islamic Relief USA. (The sponsor is welcome to engage with IRUSA's Social Media platforms. If you recognize that a shared case study or story features the orphan you sponsor, you are permitted to share that post with your social media networks barring any further manipulation of the content.)
- Name, location, photographs, and any other report related material may not be disseminated publicly or on social media platforms by sponsors or any persons who gain access to orphan related materials.

We are confident that sponsors share our concern for the safety and wellbeing of the orphans we serve and will cooperate towards this aim.



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Dear orphan sponsor,

Welcome to the orphan sponsorship program! May Allah reward you for caring for an orphan.

Here's what you can expect from us:

YOUR ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP GUIDE



First, you receive an initial report about the orphan.

The orphan's report is attached.



Your support will be transmitted to the orphan's guardian quarterly, enabling the guardian to meet the sponsored orphan and family's **most immediate needs.**



Staff members in the orphan's country **check on each sponsored orphan** during the year.



Local staff members prepare an annual progress report for you. Annual progress reports will be sent based on **availability** from the respective field office. Donors may request an updated annual progress report via **orphansupport@irusa.org** **if it has been past 12 months of the start of the sponsorship.**



You may be able to **correspond** with the **sponsored orphan through us and send monetary gifts!** You may contact the Orphan Services Team to discuss whether this is an **option** for the country the sponsored orphan resides in.



If you sponsor on a monthly basis **the sponsorship will continue until you contact us to cancel it.** If you decide to sponsor on an annual basis, we will contact you to renew.

Jazak Allahu khair for your commitment to look after the wellbeing of an orphan, following in the footsteps of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE ORPHAN SERVICES AND STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

SPONSOR AN ORPHAN AT IRUSA.ORG/ORPHANS • ORPHANSUPPORT@IRUSA.ORG • 1-855-447-1001



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Orphan Sponsorship FAQ

How is an orphan selected for sponsorship?

Orphans are selected based on five main criteria: vulnerability, financial need, family size, housing conditions, and health. The families with the greatest need—such as larger families with dire financial situations—receive priority for sponsorship. Official documentation is required to confirm an orphan's sponsorship, and the selection of children must not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, age, gender, or disability.

How does Islamic Relief define an orphan?

Islamic Relief defines an orphan as a child younger than 18 who is living without a father or both parents, or a child whose father's whereabouts have been unknown for two years or more (one year or more for refugees and internally displaced people). The orphan may be of any gender, religion, or race.

Can I write a letter to the orphan I am sponsoring?

Yes. The sponsor and orphan are free to exchange correspondence via Islamic Relief USA. Sponsors may email the correspondence to the orphansupport@irusa.org.

Does IRUSA's orphan sponsorship include refugees?

Yes! Currently, IRUSA donors are helping sponsor Somali orphan refugees in Kenya; Palestinian orphan refugees in Jordan and Lebanon; and Syrian orphan refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

How long will the sponsorship continue?

You can sponsor a child as long as you wish, up to the age of 18. In special medical or continuing education circumstances, IRUSA facilitates extended sponsorships through the age of 24. We require a minimum sponsorship time of one year because this allows us to plan ahead and maintain a consistent level of service to the orphan. However, in case of any difficulty, the sponsor may cancel at any time with advanced notice.

I have not heard about the orphan I am sponsoring. When will I be updated?

All sponsors receive a first (biodata) report on the child upon confirmation of the first donation payment. The first (biodata) report is emailed to sponsors typically six to eight weeks after initiating sponsorship. Annual progress reports will be sent based on availability from the respective field office. Donors may request an updated annual progress report via orphansupport@irusa.org if it has been past 12 months of the start of the sponsorship.

How is the sponsorship donation spent?

In many cases, sponsorship money is paid to the orphan's guardian in several increments throughout the year. Of course, every country is different and there are unique circumstances that sometimes affect frequency of payment or how the aid is delivered. You can learn the specific details of a particular country by connecting with us at **1-855-447-1001** or orphansupport@irusa.org. Orphans are monitored to ensure that they are receiving the full benefits of sponsorship. This may include health checks and/or education for school-aged children.