

# PARTNERSHIP



2025/2026

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AND GUT**





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# THANK YOU

Thank you to the IRUSA Board of Directors for their dedication to the mission.

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*Partnership*, IRUSA's flagship magazine, highlights the impact our community has when we work together for a better world. In this issue, you'll read about efforts and programs from 2025.

Assalamu Alaikum. Peace Be Upon You.



It is with a heavy heart that I write this — 2025 was an unprecedented time: a time when famine was declared in Gaza for the first time in modern history, leaving over a million people to face emergency levels of hunger, and children tragically dying from starvation. A time when more than 25 million people are grappling with food insecurity and violence in Sudan. A time when political instability and wildfires have pushed people further into poverty in Syria and Lebanon. A time when climate disasters have flooded villages and taken the lives of thousands across Kenya, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. And a time when unpredictable weather — from wildfires to tornadoes to floods — has wreaked havoc across the United States.

Yet, amid this sorrow, Islamic Relief USA's (IRUSA) mission remained steadfast: to serve those in need with compassion, dignity, and unwavering commitment. With the help of our dedicated volunteers, donors, and staff, we were able to respond to emergencies and disasters with diligence and swiftness, and support long-term development across 60 countries.

While our mission remained the same, through your support, IRUSA was able to expand its reach through innovative projects and partnerships. This year, we launched our Global Health Initiative Program, which aims to bridge the gap in healthcare around the world through medical missions and a transfer of knowledge and resources.

We also launched our Food Truck Program to address food insecurity by providing access and availability to hot, nutritious meals in three major metropolitan areas: Chicago, Detroit, and New York, with one truck in each city.

In August 2025, IRUSA launched Together We Serve, a project where IRUSA staff and star volunteers are selected to participate and see firsthand some of the impactful work we are doing internationally. The inaugural project for Together We Serve took place in Morocco.

And because of our dedication, IRUSA accepted an award from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for our close cooperation and partnership in serving refugees.

These new projects and initiatives bring hope that even in the darkest of times, compassion and service can light the way forward.

As we look ahead, we ask you to continue standing with us. Your generosity and prayers make this work possible. May Allah (SWT) reward you abundantly for your compassion, and may we continue to be a source of mercy and relief for those who need it most.

*Ahmed Shehata*

**Ahmed Shehata**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Islamic Relief USA

# WHERE WE WORK

Follow our journey of humanitarian programming  
and responses around the world.





# AFRICA

## COUNTRIES IRUSA WORKED IN

DURING 2025

- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Chad
- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- Djibouti
- Ethiopia
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea-Bissau
- Ivory Coast
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Tanzania / Zanzibar
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia



ORPHAN  
SPONSORSHIP  
PROGRAM

**5,633** SPONSORED  
ORPHANS

## SEASONAL GIVING



RAMADAN

**345,674**

ESTIMATED NUMBER  
OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED



QURBANI

**505,125**

ESTIMATED NUMBER  
OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

**2,426,453**

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

## PROJECTS BY SECTOR



**12** FOOD SECURITY



**10** WASH\*



**8** EMERGENCIES



**7** HEALTH & NUTRITION



**6** CASH / NFI\*\*



**5** LIVELIHOOD



**5** CLIMATE



**4** CAPACITY BUILDING



**4** SEASONAL

## OUR WORK ACROSS AFRICA

Islamic Relief USA worked in 29 African countries in 2025.

Our work focuses on both immediate aid as well as long-term development, including livelihood support, improved access to clean drinking water, orphan care, education, and healthcare.

In 2025, IRUSA donors helped support people across Africa through projects like the Poverty Reduction Project in Malawi; the Strengthening Community Resilience and Economic Empowerment Program in Somaliland; Building Resilient Communities Project in Niger; and a water, sanitation, and hygiene [WASH] project in South Africa.



## LIVELIHOOD

Across the entire continent of Africa, more than 57% of people live in rural areas and rely on farming for their livelihood. In places like Malawi, Chad, Uganda, Kenya, and Niger, more than 77% of the population is rural, including smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and fishing communities, who face barriers in land access, training, finances, and employment.

IRUSA established a project that focuses on poverty reduction, food and nutritional security, and protection to improve livelihoods in Malawi, a country where 82% of the population relies on farming as a means of livelihood.

“Before engaging with [IRUSA], we struggled to access farm inputs like improved seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. Our farming efforts yielded almost the same results whether we planted crops or not. We lacked food and often went to bed on an empty stomach,” stated Lucy, a recipient of the project.



Thanks to IRUSA donors, Lucy and other members of her community are now able to sustain themselves.

“Islamic Relief [USA] equipped us with agricultural skills and provided farming inputs like seeds, fertilizers, and chemicals, along with agricultural training. As a group, we have started a cooperative farming business. We work together to achieve larger yields, which we sell to increase our shares.

Last year, we harvested ten 50 kg (110 lbs) bags of maize, which we sold for MK40,000 [\$23.03] per bag, earning a total of MK400,000 [\$230.53]. We hope to harvest much better this year.”



Lucy's story shows that when rural areas receive livelihood support, the impact goes far beyond immediate relief. Livelihood support turns survival into sustainability, empowering rural communities to stand on their own and build lasting resilience.



## WATER, SANITATION, & HYGIENE (WASH)

Somalia's drought crisis is one of the most acute in recent history: **6.4 million people** lack sufficient access to water, which forces many to drink contaminated water, contributing to outbreaks of cholera and diarrhea. The drought crisis has also devastated agriculture, and in a country where **70% of people** depend on farming and pastoralism for survival, this means many cannot grow enough food to feed themselves. Drought conditions also diminish available forage and water sources and weaken animals, making them more susceptible to diseases.



Ali, a father of six children, was able to sustain his livelihood thanks to IRUSA donors, through a project that helps drought-affected pastoralists transition to and diversify into better alternative livelihoods. Ali was provided with seedlings of papaya, orange, and guava, along with irrigation facilities. IRUSA equipped him with a diesel motor and **218 yards** of plastic water pipe to help meet his water needs.

Ali shifted his livelihood from primarily livestock rearing to fruit and vegetable farming, which enabled him to earn more money and sustain larger animal flocks.

*“I believe that it is the beginning of the business, and I look forward to expanding into more fruit and vegetable production while keeping the animals, and I will continue to cultivate feed for the herds in the future,” Ali shared.*



Mulki is also a recipient of this project, and thanks to IRUSA donors, was provided with a reliable and consistent water supply within her vicinity, eliminating the need for long and arduous journeys to fetch water. With the borehole now readily accessible, Mulki can meet her family's daily water needs, sustain her livestock, and carry out household chores without the constant worry of water scarcity.



*“For water, we used to walk three to four hours to fetch it, but now Islamic Relief USA has drilled a borehole for us. This has made a huge difference for both us and our animals,” Mulki shared.*

Her story underlines the importance of continued support in fields such as water and health in enabling these societies to adapt and forge a sustainable future.

## WOMEN AND CHILDREN



Africa is home to approximately **34.3 million** orphans — children who have lost one or both parents — which represents about **11.9%** of all children on the continent. When orphans lose their fathers, it becomes particularly difficult for their mothers — widows are more likely to fall into poverty across Africa. Without property rights, many cannot farm their land, run businesses, or claim pensions.



One way IRUSA is dedicated to helping women and children sustain their families is through projects that improve food production systems and nutrition by creating more income-generating opportunities for women in Niger.

“Before this project came along, we were regularly affected by famine and food insecurity. The women had no income-generating activities and no training,” shared Hassia, a mother of four.

IRUSA has set up a market garden where all the women in the village come to grow their crops

using the free seeds provided, and the staff come regularly to coach the women on good farming techniques.

*“This project has enabled women to regain their rightful place in the village. We participate in the creation of wealth and are invited to take part in all decision-making.”*



Now, Hassia is able to provide for her family.

“I would like to thank the Islamic [Relief USA] project for everything it does for us, and may God reward its generous donors.”

## EMERGENCIES

### SUDAN



*“Since April 2023, Sudan's been in the middle of a really devastating conflict. It started with fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), and a paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). But honestly, it's not just a simple power struggle between two groups. The RSF in particular is carrying out a much broader, brutal campaign, including ethnic cleansing, looting, and taking over land and resources.*

*What makes it worse is that civilians are bearing the brunt of it. We're talking about entire neighborhoods burned down, families displaced, horrifying levels of sexual violence, and thousands of people killed. It's not just a political or military conflict, it's a humanitarian catastrophe.*

*Islamic Relief USA is actively responding both inside Sudan and in neighboring countries like Egypt and Chad. In Sudan, we're supporting over **130,000 people** through two emergency projects that focus on healthcare, nutrition, psychosocial support, and cash assistance. So far, we've helped stock hospitals with medicine, clean water, and food; distributed mosquito nets and nutrition kits; screened children for malnutrition; and provided cash to thousands of families to help meet basic needs. We're also raising awareness through community events and mental health support sessions.”*

– Myadah Kaila, IRUSA East Africa Specialist

## THANK YOU!

Your donation goes a long way. With your support, IRUSA is able to help change the lives of our brothers and sisters across Africa. To learn more about your impact, visit [irusa.org/africa](https://irusa.org/africa).





# THE AMERICAS

## COUNTRIES IRUSA WORKED IN

DURING 2025

- United States
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Mexico

DAY OF  
DIGNITY

20 EVENTS   26,650 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED   20 CITIES

## SEASONAL GIVING

SUMMER  
FOOD SERVICE  
**115,560**  
ESTIMATED NUMBER  
OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

RAMADAN  
**71,628**  
ESTIMATED NUMBER  
OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

TURKEY  
DISTRIBUTION  
**80,000**  
ESTIMATED NUMBER  
OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

QURBANI  
**41,509**  
ESTIMATED NUMBER  
OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

**28,000**

VOLUNTEER HOURS IN THE AMERICAS

Volunteer hours include: national deployments, US meal packs, volunteer support for fundraising efforts and events, aid distributions, Ramadan food box projects, skill-based volunteers and interns, and more.

**544,190**

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

## PROJECTS BY SECTOR

- 229** FOOD SECURITY
- 52** LIVELIHOOD
- 8** EDUCATION
- 7** EMERGENCY
- 6** HEALTH/NUTRITION
- 6** WOMEN
- 1** CASH/NFI\*
- 1** PSS/PROTECTION\*\*
- 1** ORPHANS

## OUR WORK ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

In 2025, millions of families across the United States struggled against enormous odds. Rising housing costs, food insecurity, homelessness, and racial inequities continued to weigh heavily on communities. What should be simple choices like paying rent, buying groceries, or accessing healthcare, too often became impossible trade-offs.

Nearly 36 million Americans — about 1 in every 10 people — live in poverty. Even more troubling, many of them are employed but remain trapped in cycles of financial hardship that they cannot escape. These stark realities remind us that need is not confined to faraway places; it exists in our neighborhoods, schools, and cities.

At IRUSA, we take seriously the teaching that charity begins at home. That's why, in 2025, your generosity fueled **319 projects** in all **50 states** and the District of Columbia, providing food assistance, healthcare access, community development, and support to some of the most vulnerable families.



## FOOD TRUCK / FOOD AID

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), an estimated 13.5% of US households (18 million people) were food insecure at least at some point during the year. Very low food security is the more severe range of food insecurity, where one or more household members experience reduced food intake and disrupted eating patterns at times during the year because of limited money or other resources for food.



Food insecurity is a major issue in the US, and it is expected to continue to be a major issue due to several factors, including the economy, political tension, and policy changes. There are four key areas that need to be addressed to ensure that families are food secure:

- **Availability:** there should be sufficient food at all times
- **Accessibility:** there must be physical and economic access to food at all times
- **Utilization:** the food must address a person's nutritional needs
- **Sustainability:** food should be accessible for both present and future generations



Traditional models of food aid, like food banks and soup kitchens, cannot fully address mobility barriers in urban areas because they exist in fixed locations, which further contribute to food insecurity.

**That is why IRUSA launched its Food Truck Program in January 2025 to address food insecurity by providing access to and availability of hot, nutritious meals in three major metropolitan areas: Chicago, Detroit, and New York, with one truck in each city.**

The mobility of the truck allows for hot meals to be served in high-need areas like food deserts, unhoused encampments, and neighborhoods otherwise overlooked by larger systems. These trucks can also be stationed in convenient, strategic spots — for example, near mobile showers, shelters, or clinics — where people are already gathered for essential services. This approach does not just increase access, it ensures that these meals are delivered with dignity and without barriers.

Just as importantly, the Food Truck Program is rooted in community input. Local partners help determine truck locations and share insights about food preferences in their neighborhoods. The meals served are thoughtfully prepared with these preferences in mind, ensuring they are not only balanced but culturally familiar.



**FOR JUST \$10, YOU CAN HELP PROVIDE A HOT, NOURISHING MEAL TO SOMEONE IN NEED.**

That meal may be the only one they get that day — and might be the one thing standing between hunger and hope. Learn more or donate.

**Also check out our podcast episode "Learn About IRUSA's Food Trucks and Hot Meal Program" on page 44.**



[irusa.org/hot-meals](https://irusa.org/hot-meals)



Each meal includes rice and vegetables, paired with a protein choice catered to the tastes of that specific community. These are not just foods to fill a plate — they are meals that are dignified, comforting, and the kind of food we would serve to our own families.

Our first two hot meal distributions happened on January 15 in Chicago, IL, and Brooklyn, NY. In Chicago, families lined up to receive a hot meal of chicken, rice, and vegetables at the Fuel Movement, a food pantry, where the IRUSA truck was parked.

When speaking to Jasmine Saadeh, IRUSA Regional US Coordinator, who was at the Chicago mobile hot meals distribution, she stated that,

**“By providing these meals, we were able to see, firsthand, the actual impact. Watching people who really needed a meal sit down and have a hot meal made me feel more appreciative of the work we do. This food truck is going to change lives!”**



## MOBILE CLINIC / HEALTH

In one of the wealthiest nations in the world, millions of Americans still face significant barriers when it comes to accessing healthcare. The most significant obstacle is cost, and according to recent data, roughly **40%** of Americans report delaying or forgoing medical treatment because of the cost.

For many populations, healthcare is not only expensive, but it is also logistically out of reach. Rural communities suffer from hospital closures, long travel times to the nearest medical facility, and a shortage of doctors, nurses, and specialists. Urban communities, while closer to medical centers, often experience overwhelmed systems with long wait times, making access inconsistent and uneven.

When access to care is restricted, the consequences ripple beyond the individual. That is why IRUSA works with community groups to provide free health screenings and services to low-income families.

One of those programs is through the University Muslim Medical Association (UMMA) Health Clinic in California. IRUSA has provided a three-year grant focused on “Access to Care” to UMMA Health Clinic, with an emphasis on integrating dental services into their existing care model. UMMA Health Clinic provides comprehensive primary care from birth through the end of life, including pediatrics, adolescent care, adult care, and geriatric care. They offer immunizations, infectious disease screening and treatment, behavioral health, and dental care, all of which have been supported through the IRUSA grant.

**“We extend our heartfelt thanks to IRUSA for their generous three-year grant. IRUSA's support has been instrumental in kicking off and expanding UMMA Health Clinic's dental services, including the launch of our Mobile Dental Clinic. Thanks to their funding, we have been able to integrate high-quality dental care with our existing primary care and behavioral health services, allowing us to offer a more holistic model of care. We are proud of what we have accomplished together and look forward to future collaborations!”** – Staff member at UMMA Health Clinic

Health screenings and consultations are also often part of IRUSA's Day of Dignity events, which take place each summer and fall.

In 2025, we held **20** Day of Dignity events across the country, which brought access to healthcare services along with hot meals, clothing provisions, resume and job-interview training, and so much more.



**“Many families shared their gratitude, saying the supplies and services lifted a real burden as they prepared for the school year and the months ahead. For some, it meant their children could start school with confidence; for others, it meant basic needs were met with compassion. Their smiles and words of thanks are what made this Day of Dignity so special.”**

– Abdisalam Sharif, IRUSA Regional US Program Coordinator



For more information  
[irusa.org/day-of-dignity](https://irusa.org/day-of-dignity).







## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Strong communities do not just happen, they are built through intentional investment, collaboration, and long-term care. Community development programs are designed to meet these local needs directly, ensuring that resources are used where they matter most. By focusing on grassroots solutions, these initiatives often succeed where broader, one-size-fits-all policies fall short.

IRUSA has been at the forefront of addressing these needs in underserved communities. From food distribution and health clinics to education programs, IRUSA partners with local organizations to ensure that families have access to vital resources that improve their quality of life.

In 2025, IRUSA provided support to more than 60 different community groups across the country, serving nearly 248,657 people with programs ranging from legal services, to reintegration programs, to mental health awareness programs.

The MADE Institute [Money, Attitude, Direction, and Education] in Flint, MI, is one of the organizations IRUSA supports. Its mission is to provide transitional housing and comprehensive programming for at-risk youth and returning citizens through workforce development, social advocacy, urban farming, training and research, and violence prevention.

The MADE Institute also provides comprehensive wrap-around services for individuals impacted by violence, youth, and low-income families, and

works to reduce the stigma around returning citizens.

“When we do the programs, whether it’s food giveaways or community cleanups, we make sure they’re front and center and the community knows that these are returning citizens that are doing this amazing work, giving back to the community and earning that respect through their actions, showing that they want to be a part of the rebuilding process of the community.”

—Leon El-Alamin, MADE Chief Executive Officer

“Islamic Relief USA has been such an amazing partner. Without [your] support, we definitely [would] be struggling. And [your support] has really allowed us to leverage with other foundations who see [your name] and [then] are open to also supporting us or strengthening [us].”



## THANK YOU!

Your donation goes a long way. With your support, IRUSA is able to help change the lives of our neighbors. To learn more about your impact, visit [irusa.org/usa](https://irusa.org/usa).



## CENTRAL AND LATIN AMERICA

### Brazil

In 2025, 18 Afghan refugee families arrived under Brazil’s newly launched Community Sponsorship Program, a pioneering initiative within Latin America to resettle, protect, and integrate people forcibly displaced by the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. IRUSA launched the Expanding Inclusion of Afghan Refugees in Brazil Program in order to integrate more Afghan refugees into the country.

### Colombia



After devastating flooding in September of 2024, IRUSA conducted on-ground assessments in key affected areas, working closely with community leaders, local organizations, and residents to identify needs and close gaps in nutrition and sanitation throughout 2025. Also this year, IRUSA launched the Comprehensive Humanitarian Response for Afro-descendant, Indigenous, and Migrant Communities in Chocho, Colombia project, as well as Long-Term Empowerment for Vulnerable Communities in Colombia Project.

### Guatemala

IRUSA has a Reintegration for Repatriated Youth Program that provides support and services to youth (ages 14-24) repatriated to Guatemala and Mexico from the United States or Mexico. The program helps individuals plan for family reunification, offers mental and physical health support, vocational and educational training, financial literacy, and improves access to

community resources to foster successful reintegration.



### Haiti

Gang attacks on neighborhoods are part of daily life for Port-au-Prince residents. IRUSA has implemented a program that assists internally displaced persons (IDPs) and communities affected by gang violence.

### Mexico



IRUSA has a project that provides humanitarian aid for asylum seekers. This program provides life-saving infrastructure, essential supplies, and education to displaced and vulnerable communities at the border and beyond. The project focuses on five primary areas: water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); infrastructure development; play and recreational spaces; science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); education; and women’s health.

To learn more about our efforts in Latin America, visit [irusa.org/latin-america](https://irusa.org/latin-america).





# US EMERGENCIES

WILL YOU  
ANSWER  
THE CALL?

In addition to sustainable programming, IRUSA works quickly to provide urgent and immediate aid and support to survivors of emergencies.

Here are some of the recent emergency interventions IRUSA's Disaster Management Team (DMT) and Blueshirt volunteers have responded to in the United States.



## LA WILDFIRES

At the beginning of 2025, multiple wildfires devastated the Los Angeles area, with the Palisades and Eaton fires being the most destructive. These fires collectively burned nearly **30,000 acres** and destroyed over **9,000** structures, leading to mass evacuations and significant property loss. Approximately **180,000** residents were displaced due to mandatory evacuation orders. There were **31** confirmed fatalities.

Islamic Relief USA set up a team dedicated to serving those in need and those who have fallen through the cracks of other types of support. Individuals who did not qualify for other forms of support came to IRUSA and were provided with the financial support they needed to recover and begin to rebuild a new sense of normal for them and their families.



In the long-term recovery phase, IRUSA's DMT partnered with local organizations to address unmet needs and engage volunteers in rebuilding and cleanup efforts. Our commitment to the community extends beyond immediate relief, supporting sustainable recovery and resilience for those impacted by the wildfires.

“

*Although the road to recovery will be long and challenging, since rebuilding lives after such devastation requires physical reconstruction, as well as emotional healing and financial support, we at IRUSA will support recovery efforts.”*

– Ahmed Shehata, IRUSA CEO



## KENTUCKY FLOODS

Severe winds, tornadoes, and flooding caused widespread destruction across the Midwest in Arkansas, Kentucky, Georgia, Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee, and Mississippi in April 2025. In Kentucky specifically, a state of emergency was declared and evacuations were ordered due to rising water levels. Damage estimates exceeded **\$500 million**, including homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure.

In response, IRUSA's DMT worked closely with the American Red Cross and local emergency management agencies to supply hot meals and emergency shelters to families in need. IRUSA also launched a public fundraising campaign to raise awareness and mobilize donor support for continued response and recovery efforts.





# DISASTER MANAGEMENT TEAM'S

# MUCK & GUT

In addition to responding immediately to emergencies across the United States, our Disaster Management Team has launched their Muck and Gut initiative. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), “muck and gut” refers to the process of removing mud, muck, water-damaged materials, and debris from a home after a flood or storm. It usually involves:

**Mucking:** clearing out mud, sludge, and standing water left behind in a home

**Gutting:** tearing out water-damaged drywall, insulation, flooring, carpets, and cabinetry to prevent mold growth and structural damage

“When water gets into a home and rises to a certain level, septic tank sewer systems will rise and water will become contaminated. So aside from the threat of water developing into excess moisture in the home that turns into mold, there’s also the issue of bacteria. Therefore, everything that touches water needs to be removed,” explained Hani Hamwi, IRUSA Disaster Response Manager.

“Furniture, kitchen items, cabinets, appliances, drywall, flooring, everything needs to be removed, decontaminated, and allowed the time to dry properly before new drywall, flooring, and cabinetry are installed in the home. This helps people preserve their homes by keeping them free from damaging and dangerous mold and bacteria,” he continued.

This is typically one of the first steps in disaster recovery, which is why IRUSA’s Disaster Management Team is hosting a series of Muck and Gut training sessions so volunteers can learn the process.

“In the United States, flooding has become the most common occurring disaster in the

United States, and the most costly disaster. So for us as Islamic Relief USA to develop a Muck and Gut Program is really in response to the common occurrence of flooding in different cities in different states and places that historically never had flooding before,” he explained.

According to FEMA, 90% of all US natural disasters involve flooding. Each year, floods cause billions of dollars in damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure. For families, the impact is especially devastating: just one inch of water inside a home can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Beyond the financial costs, floods uproot lives, force evacuations, destroy keepsakes, and leave lasting emotional scars.

In 2025, FEMA declared disasters at a startling pace. One major disaster every four days, totaling 90 major declarations, demonstrating the relentless frequency of flood and storm events.

With the number of flooding disasters we have every year, it is important that we are prepared.



“IRUSA has four Muck and Gut trailers throughout the country, and the whole point of the trailer is that it is mobile and that we’re able to go to a disaster site, meet with our volunteers who are trained, and then drop the tools off from the trailer in each home so they can begin working.”



To learn more about Islamic Relief USA’s disaster management team, visit:

[irusa.org/drt](https://irusa.org/drt)



scan here



# ASIA

## COUNTRIES IRUSA WORKED IN

DURING 2025

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- India
- Indonesia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka



ORPHAN  
SPONSORSHIP  
PROGRAM

**7,634** SPONSORED  
ORPHANS

## SEASONAL GIVING

RAMADAN

**62,025**

ESTIMATED NUMBER  
OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED



QURBANI

**161,620**

ESTIMATED NUMBER  
OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

**518,129**

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

## PROJECTS BY SECTOR



**33** FOOD SECURITY



**15** LIVELIHOOD



**8** EMERGENCIES



**5** CLIMATE



**5** SHELTER



**3** WASH\*



**3** CAPACITY BUILDING



**3** ORPHAN SUPPORT



**2** HEALTH & NUTRITION



**2** EDUCATION

## OUR WORK ACROSS ASIA

Islamic Relief USA worked in nine Asian countries in 2025.

Our work focuses on both immediate aid in response to emergencies such as earthquakes in Myanmar and flooding in Pakistan, as well as long-term development including programs centered around improving climate sustainability, health, education, livelihood support, shelter, food aid, improved access to clean drinking water, women's programs, and orphan care.

In 2025, IRUSA donors helped support people in Asia through projects like the Shelter and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Facilities Improvement Project in Bangladesh; a project focused on addressing poverty and climate resilience in five Asian countries: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Nepal; and an emergency assistance program supporting earthquake-affected communities in Afghanistan.



## SHELTER

Life for refugees living in camps is defined by severe overcrowding, little or no access to basic services, and temporary shelter that is not resilient or able to withstand climate disasters. This is apparent in refugee communities in Bangladesh, which is home to over **one million** refugees and hosts one of the largest refugee camps in the world.

IRUSA launched a program focused on improving living conditions, WASH facilities, livelihood support, and protection of the Rohingya refugee and host communities in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, and Bhasan Char.

Kamal is a husband and father who was forced to leave his home in Myanmar and now resides in a refugee camp with his wife and two daughters.

During the last monsoon season, heavy rains completely destroyed Kamal's shelter.



“I was devastated,” shared Kamal. “With no son to help, no income, and no means to rebuild, I was left helpless, wondering who would come to my aid. Shelter is not just about a roof over our heads; it is about security and dignity.”



Through IRUSA, a needs assessment was conducted and Kamal's home was rebuilt.

“When I saw my new shelter, stronger and better than before, I could not hold back my tears,” stated Kamal. “It was more than just a shelter; it was a sign that I was not forgotten, that my struggles were acknowledged. I am deeply grateful to IRUSA.”

Kamal's story is a common one for displaced individuals, not just of struggle, but of resilience, hope, and a longing for a future beyond displacement.

LIVELIHOOD

Over 40% of Pakistan's population is now considered to be living below the poverty line, estimated to be over 107.95 million people. Contributing factors to the high poverty rate include high inflation, high unemployment, and the impact of natural disasters on the country.

An IRUSA project spanning two years and five countries is focused on supporting thousands of climate-vulnerable families by improving their socio-economic well-being.



Abdul Wahid is from Pakistan and lives in a small mud house with his wife and four children, with limited access to clean water. He runs a small business breeding sheep and other animals and does part-time labor work near his home. Abdul Wahid received a multi-purpose cash grant through IRUSA to improve his livelihood and enhance his family's financial stability in case of an emergency.

The grant has enabled Abdul Wahid to invest in his livestock farming venture by providing capital for purchasing additional animals, improving infrastructure, and acquiring necessary inputs such as feed and veterinary care. This diversification of income sources reduces his

family's dependence on a single source of income and improves their overall standard of living.

“Overall, these are all magnificent efforts provided by IRUSA,” Abdul Wahid shared. “I am very overwhelmed and grateful for the help provided by IRUSA and hope that they will continue providing such aid in [the] future.”

Abdul Wahid's story shows how livelihood-enhancing programs can help break the cycle of poverty and promote economic stability within communities.

EDUCATION



In Afghanistan, 75% of the population struggles to meet their daily needs, and those most affected include female-headed households, rural communities, and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The country relies heavily on international aid as it deals with issues of widespread hunger, unemployment, and vulnerability to natural disasters.

In October 2023, a massive earthquake struck 25 miles west of Herat City in the western Herat Province — the third-largest in Afghanistan. IRUSA launched a long-term response program to assist families affected by the earthquake, providing improved access to WASH, food security and livelihood assistance, and support for the rehabilitation of community facilities.



Firoza is a full-time housewife, raising her three young children on her own as her husband lives

and works in Iran and sends money back for his family.

“Sometimes,” Firoza shared, “I try to find small jobs, like sewing or doing menial jobs for families, like cleaning dishes, but the pay is low and rarely covers our basic needs.”

Most of her family's income goes toward the cost of food. “The costs of education and school supplies prevent me from enrolling my children, which is a heavy burden on my family and also shatters my children's dreams of schooling.”

Firoza and her family received financial assistance through IRUSA's program along with assistance

to purchase food. It has provided them with the opportunity to change the trajectory of their future.

“I would like to send my children to school so they can pursue their dreams like other children,” Firoza stated.

“I am using part of the cash assistance to do this.”

Firoza's story is one of strength in the face of adversity and of how today's support can have a lasting impact on tomorrow's outcomes.

EMERGENCIES

AFGHANISTAN

In 2025, over one million Afghans returned to Afghanistan from neighboring countries. The influx is overwhelming border and reintegration systems in a country already under strain from multiple crises. The most notable crisis was the 6.0 magnitude earthquake that struck eastern provinces — Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman — destroying thousands of homes, injuring 3,600 people, and killing at least 2,200 on August 31, 2025. IRUSA launched an emergency response in Afghanistan, which included the deployment of mobile health clinics, delivery of essential medical supplies, and the provision of trauma care services.



MYANMAR - THAILAND

On March 28, 2025, Myanmar and Thailand were severely impacted by a devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake. In Myanmar, the hardest-hit areas include rural and urban settlements around Mandalay and Sagaing, where thousands of homes have collapsed, roads have been destroyed, and critical infrastructure such as electricity, water supply, and communication networks are severely disrupted. Thailand has also suffered severe impacts, especially in the densely populated capital, Bangkok. Critical structural collapses, notably a 33-story building, have resulted in multiple fatalities and injuries, with ongoing search-and-rescue efforts continuing to save those trapped under debris. IRUSA immediately launched an emergency response to free trapped survivors and lay the groundwork for early recovery and long-term resilience in both countries.



PAKISTAN

Pakistan is facing the effects of the worst climate disaster in 30 years, despite having a trivial share in global carbon emissions. More than 880 people died due to flash flooding caused by cloudbursts since the beginning of the monsoon season. 337 were killed on August 15, 2025 alone, when a cloudburst caused boulders to crash down with the water and reduce villages to rubble. More than 1,600 homes were also completely destroyed. IRUSA launched an emergency response where we provided shelter, clean water, food, and medical care to those in need.



THANK YOU!

Your donation goes a long way. With your support, IRUSA is able to help change the lives of our brothers and sisters across Asia. To learn more about your impact, visit [irusa.org/asia](https://irusa.org/asia).





# EUROPE

## COUNTRIES IRUSA WORKED IN

DURING 2025

- Albania
- Bosnia
- Greece
- Kosovo
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia



ORPHAN  
SPONSORSHIP  
PROGRAM

**1,625** SPONSORED  
ORPHANS

## PROJECTS BY SECTOR



**9** FOOD SECURITY



**6** HEALTH & NUTRITION



**5** LIVELIHOOD



**4** EDUCATION



**3** WASH\*



**1** PSS/PROTECTION\*\*



**1** EMERGENCY

## SEASONAL GIVING



RAMADAN

**23,466**

ESTIMATED NUMBER  
OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED



QURBANI

**5,960**

ESTIMATED NUMBER  
OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

**321,384**

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

## OUR WORK ACROSS EUROPE

Islamic Relief USA worked in six countries across Europe in 2025.

Our work has focused on seasonal programs for Ramadan and Qurbani, as well as emergency and long-term development programs including improved access to health and nutrition; psychosocial support (PSS); livelihood support; food security; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); and education.

In 2025, IRUSA donors helped support people in need in Europe through programs such as the Enhancing Refugee Rights and Protection in Greece Program, serving refugee and asylum populations, as well as the Integrated Response in Bulqiza, Albania Program, serving vulnerable populations.

## PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

During times of major conflict and persecution, refugees escape to Greece, a major entry point into Europe. Greece currently hosts over **214,000** refugees and almost **20,000** asylum-seekers from countries such as Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

IRUSA launched the Enhancing Refugee Rights and Protection in Greece Program to provide access to basic services to refugees and asylum seekers including legal representation, quality mental health and psychosocial support, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Through this program, IRUSA works to provide legal assistance to vulnerable refugees — helping

navigate the complex asylum procedures; providing legal counsel; representation in civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings; and advising on rights under Greek, European Union (EU), and international law. IRUSA also engages in strategic litigation and advocacy to try to change or uphold policies that impact refugees' rights, for example, cases to ensure procedural rights or access to basic services.

The program also includes activities to raise awareness among refugees themselves about their legal rights, entitlements, and processes (e.g., asylum, movement, access to services). This helps people make informed decisions and exercise rights.

Recognizing that many refugees have been exposed to trauma, loss, or harsh living conditions that exacerbate mental health issues, the program includes or works alongside providers of individual and group mental health support through group sessions; psychoeducation; and efforts to reduce stigma.







The program also helps refugees with skills, employment opportunities, and documentation needed to access the labor market, such as supporting people to navigate bureaucratic requirements (social security number, residency, legal rights to work) so they can participate in sustainable livelihoods.

The Enhancing Refugee Rights and Protection in Greece Program reflects Islamic Relief USA's enduring commitment to upholding human rights and advancing the well-being of vulnerable communities. This commitment to refugee protection is also reflected in the recognition of IRUSA's leadership; most recently, our CEO was honored with a UNHCR title for championing refugee rights and advancing collaborative solutions.

## HEALTH

The town of Bulqiza is located in northeast Albania and is made up of about 62 villages. The water supply in rural areas of Bulqiza has been largely neglected for many years and the existing water supply networks are insufficient, creating water access issues. Additionally, health infrastructure is inadequate as there are only eight medical clinics and one ambulance that serve the entire town.



Islamic Relief USA's Integrated Response in Bulqiza, Albania Program works to enhance the quality of

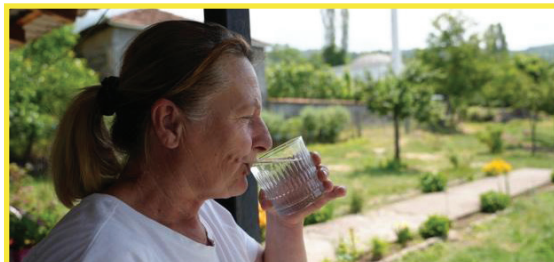
life for residents through the construction of six water supply systems, the construction and furnishing of two medical clinics and the provision of seven ambulances, the distribution of livestock, fodder, and training for 25 farms to enhance sustainable livelihoods.



Dashamir lives with his wife and daughter in Bulqiza, and due to his lung disease, he is unable to work and support his family. They rely on farming solely to survive, but despite their best efforts, they are only able to cultivate a small amount of beans on a plot of land. They struggle against poor soil, limited resources, and low water supply.



Thanks to IRUSA donors, a new water supply system was built in his area, which has drastically changed his life. Not only does he now have water in his home, but he is also able to tend to his farm and hope for a better outcome.



Feride, a widow who lives alone, has also benefited from the water system in Bulqiza, and can now better cultivate peppers, potatoes, tomatoes, and beans on her land. Previously, Feride suffered to afford basic necessities and was forced to rely on the little bit of vegetables her farm was able to produce. Now, not only can she feed herself from the fruits of her labor, but she has a surplus that she sells in the local market.

# ALBANIA CHALLENGE

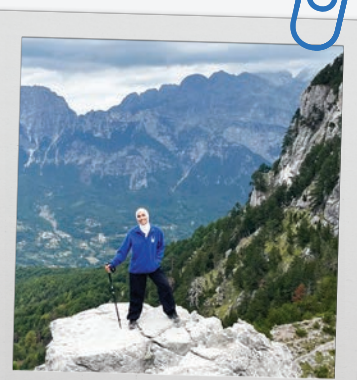
IRUSA Adventure Challenges and Inspire trips offer life-changing experiences that not only let participants explore new places and meet new people, but also raise awareness and support for important humanitarian work and programs.

In September 2025, an incredible group of IRUSA participants had the privilege of hiking through the beautiful Albanian Alps as part of our Adventure Challenges program.

What makes these challenges even more impactful is that the participants had the chance to visit the programs and see firsthand how their efforts translate into real change. These visits allowed them to meet the communities they've supported, witness the programs in action, and understand the profound difference their fundraising and advocacy make. It's an experience that combines personal growth, adventure, and a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to uplift those in need.

*“It was a powerful journey physically, emotionally, and spiritually, and a meaningful reminder of how impactful our challenges can be. This experience pushed us to reflect deeply on the struggles of our brothers and sisters around the world. It reminded us of how blessed we are and how much more we must continue to do.”*

— Yosra R.



## THANK YOU!

*Your donation goes a long way.*

With your support, IRUSA is able to help change the lives of our brothers and sisters across Europe. To learn more about your impact, visit [irusa.org/europe](https://irusa.org/europe).



scan here



# MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

## COUNTRIES IRUSA WORKED IN DURING 2025

- Egypt
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Morocco
- Palestine
- Syria
- Türkiye
- Yemen



**ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

**9,359** SPONSORED ORPHANS

## SEASONAL GIVING



**RAMADAN**  
**959,830**  
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED



**QURBANI**  
**408,413**  
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

**3,443,802**  
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

## PROJECTS BY SECTOR

-  **40 EMERGENCIES**
-  **28 HEALTH & NUTRITION**
-  **21 SEASONAL**
-  **16 CAPACITY BUILDING**
-  **12 FOOD SECURITY**
-  **12 LIVELIHOOD**
-  **11 WASH\***
-  **10 CASH/NFI\*\***
-  **7 EDUCATION**
-  **4 SHELTER**

## OUR WORK ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

IRUSA has been working in the Middle East and North Africa since 1997. Not only have we been able to provide immediate and long-term aid to those in desperate need, but we have also helped bring compassion, comfort, and hope to families across the region. IRUSA continues to deliver life-saving aid across ten countries.

In 2025, IRUSA donors supported people across the Middle East and North Africa through dozens of projects, including operating a mobile clinic in Jordan, providing vital medication to displaced people in Palestine, and helping Syrian refugees return home.

### HEALTH

Access to healthcare is a universal human need, yet for millions across the Middle East, it remains out of reach. Conflict, displacement, and economic hardship have left families struggling to afford even the most basic treatments. IRUSA has made health a cornerstone of its humanitarian work, ensuring that vulnerable communities receive the care they need to live with dignity.

For Amani, a Syrian refugee in Jordan, daily life was marked by constant pain. Suffering from gallbladder disease for years, she endured severe stomach aches and difficulty walking, making it nearly impossible to care for her children. Without access to affordable healthcare, her condition worsened silently.

That changed when IRUSA’s mobile clinic reached her community. For the first time, Amani was able to consult doctors who guided her toward the treatment she needed.



After a successful gallbladder surgery, her life was transformed. She could once again be present for her children, no longer limited by her illness. Grateful for the support that made her healing possible, Amani shared a heartfelt message:

“May Allah [SWT] reward you for your kindness.”

Her story reflects the larger impact of IRUSA’s health initiatives in Jordan, where refugees face immense challenges accessing proper medical care. By bringing clinics directly to vulnerable populations, IRUSA bridges the gap between need and treatment.



In Palestine, the struggle for healthcare is equally urgent. At a hospital in Tulkarem, patients fill the hallways seeking treatment under immense strain. Among them is Abu Mohammad, a middle-aged father living with multiple chronic conditions: diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease, requiring both a pacemaker and stents.

The medications he relies on to survive are costly, and worsening economic conditions have made them nearly impossible to afford.

“In the past year and a half, work has decreased, and jobs are scarce,” he explained. “People who were above the poverty line are now below it — some even far below it.”

Thanks to IRUSA’s expanded support for hospitals and medical facilities across Palestine, Abu Mohammad can now access his medications more easily. The aid not only alleviates his financial burden but also allows him to care for his family without sacrificing his health. “I thank [the IRUSA community] for helping people — especially now, when the need is greater than ever,” he said.

## REFUGEES



After 14 years, when peaceful protests quickly spiraled into civil war, opposition forces retook the Syrian city of Damascus.

Experts report the death toll from the onset of the crisis in 2011 is as high as **620,000** people; more than **14 million** Syrians have been forced to flee their homes; and the UN estimates **16.7 million** people — more than **70%** of the country’s population — are in need of humanitarian assistance.

The standard of living has been set back by decades. More than **70%** of Syrians are living in poverty, having lost their livelihoods and unable to meet their basic needs, including access to food, clean water, or proper healthcare. The children of Syria are among the most affected as many don’t know life outside of the war and will be forced to face the long-term effects of physical and mental trauma.

In response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Rukban Camp, IRUSA launched a comprehensive mission to assess the needs of remaining families and facilitate their voluntary repatriation. Thanks to your support, **86 families** from Rukban Camp were safely and voluntarily returned to their hometowns. Yasmine, whose family returned home to the eastern part of Syria’s Homs province, exclaimed tearfully,

“What can I say? It was a happiness that cannot be described. Even though our house is destroyed, it’s a castle in my eyes.”

## WOMEN



While Türkiye is one of the more developed nations of those we work in across the Middle East, it’s still severely affected by poverty. High unemployment among youth and gender inequality have led to a significant setback in the economy, and inflation is rising as resources such as gas and electricity are almost unaffordable. In certain areas of the country, climate-induced natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and forest fires are very common. Additionally, Türkiye is the largest refugee-hosting country in the world and is currently home to **3.6 million** Syrian refugees alone, like Um Mohammed.

Um Mohammed is a mother of three. She lives in Türkiye while the rest of her family resides in Syria. She shares how, when she first sought refuge at the shelter, the weight of her hardships felt unbearable, especially with the loss of her husband.

“Thankfully, Islamic Relief USA opened their arms to us, offering a safe haven amidst our turmoil.”

Through the shelter, Um Mohammed and her children were provided with the basic necessities of life: a roof over their heads, access to clean water, and treatment for her son’s asthma. Her children are even able to attend school and pursue their right to education, which seemed unattainable when they first arrived.

“Within the confines of this shelter, we find a semblance of stability and hope, knowing that God and the compassionate souls who support this sanctuary are with us.”

# EMERGENCIES

## PALESTINE

**FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MODERN HISTORY, FAMINE WAS DECLARED IN GAZA — A MAN-MADE CATASTROPHE THAT LEFT OVER A MILLION PEOPLE FACING EMERGENCY LEVELS OF HUNGER, AND CHILDREN TRAGICALLY DYING OF STARVATION. AT THE HEIGHT OF THE VIOLENCE, AN AVERAGE OF 28 CHILDREN WERE KILLED EVERY DAY — THE EQUIVALENT OF A CLASSROOM FULL OF CHILDREN.**

The humanitarian toll has been catastrophic. More than **67,000** lives have been lost, **92%** of homes have been damaged or destroyed, and essential infrastructure — including hospitals, schools, and water systems — lies in ruins.



*Famine is more than hunger — it robs people of dignity and safety. And once declared, it is already too late for many. Every day that passes without meaningful action means more lives lost, more children suffering irreparable harm, and more families torn apart. Gaza’s man-made famine is a test for humanity.*— Ahmed Shehata, IRUSA CEO

Islamic Relief USA is dedicated to helping the people of Palestine. Despite immense challenges and roadblocks, IRUSA has committed more than **\$70.6 million** through **13 partner organizations** in Gaza to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance — including food aid, medical care, winter relief, improved access to clean water, psychological support, and much more. To date, IRUSA has provided over **5 million interventions\*** in Gaza.

A ceasefire was declared on Oct. 10, 2025, and while aid is now entering Gaza, it continues to fall short of what is needed to meet the immense humanitarian needs. Since the ceasefire was announced, through our partners on the ground, IRUSA has been able to provide hot meals and food parcels to beneficiaries, postpartum kits to mothers and their newborns, and hearing aids to individuals experiencing hearing loss. Additionally, we’re implementing service-based projects including medical care and psychosocial sessions [PSS].



*We will continue to stand with the people of Gaza — not only in their time of crisis, but throughout their journey toward recovery. With your support, we can transform hope into lasting change.”*

*\*An intervention is defined as any direct action, service, or support activity designed to address a particular humanitarian need.*





## LIBYA

Libya faces one of the most complex humanitarian environments in the region today. With two rival governments operating in parallel, the country remains deeply divided politically, economically, and socially, leading to ongoing instability.

IRUSA has committed nearly **\$4.1 million** to support vulnerable communities across Libya through emergency programs that support victims of natural disaster, healthcare initiatives that serve refugee populations displaced from Sudan, and long-term programs focused on providing improved access to proper healthcare services including primary, mental, and psychosocial support for women and children.



## LEBANON

Lebanon has entered its sixth year of a crippling economic crisis, pushing more than **80% of people** into poverty without proper access to food, water, healthcare, and education. In addition, Lebanon plays host to a large population of refugees and is currently home to nearly **1.5 million Syrian refugees** as well as **210,000 Palestinian refugees**.

Geopolitical violence escalated in 2025, leading IRUSA to launch an emergency response that provided immediate emergency assistance including food aid, essential non-food items, and access to proper healthcare for families in need. A second emergency program serves children experiencing hearing loss through the establishment of a permanent Hearing and Speech Center at Al-Hamshari Hospital, which will provide diagnostic and treatment services to nearly **1,000 underserved patients** each year.



## SYRIA

“For the past 14 years, we have witnessed the people of Syria face calamity after calamity. From chemical weapons to barrel bombs, Syrians faced the severe and systematic human rights violations that ultimately destroyed the country.

Islamic Relief USA launched an emergency campaign in Syria, aiming to provide immediate relief to those in need.

“ We are dedicated to helping the people of Syria — we aim to restore essential community infrastructure in Syria by rehabilitating critical public facilities with solar energy systems. Our intervention will address urgent gaps in food security and public services while promoting sustainability through renewable energy.”

– Ahmed Shehata, IRUSA CEO



## THANK YOU!

Your donation goes a long way. With your support, IRUSA is able to help change the lives of our brothers and sisters across the Middle East and North Africa. To learn more about your impact, visit [irusa.org/middle-east](https://irusa.org/middle-east).



# WHAT WE DO

Learn about our new initiatives and see how we're advancing our mission.





# CHARTING A PATH OF PROGRESS: THE CEO'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## AHMED SHEHATA

An organization is only as good as its leaders, and IRUSA is proud to be led by Ahmed Shehata, an expert in the American Muslim philanthropy, community development, and humanitarian non-governmental organization (NGO) sector. In 2025, under his leadership, remarkable accomplishments have been achieved, from being selected to join the Clinton Global Initiative to being named Eminent Advocate for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to meeting with the highest officials from the countries we serve.

Read more about some of the accomplishments from the CEO's office.

### AHMED SHEHATA, LEADS IRUSA TO JOIN THE CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE 2025 COHORT

IRUSA is proud to have been selected to join the Clinton Global Initiative [CGI] 2025 cohort of Humanitarian Response commitment-makers. The CGI Humanitarian Response cohort is a group of organizations, governments, and individuals who make measurable commitments to help address humanitarian crises around the world. Each year, CGI invites select participants based on their ability to launch impactful humanitarian work.

Founded by President Bill Clinton in 2005, the Clinton Global Initiative is a community of doers representing a broad cross-section of society and dedicated to the idea that we can accomplish more together than we can apart. Through CGI's unique model, more than 10,000 organizations have launched more than 4,000 Commitments to Action — new, specific, and measurable projects and programs — that are making a difference in the lives of more than 500 million people in 180 countries.

At the Clinton Global Initiative on September 24, IRUSA announced it will commit \$50 million to a wide-ranging set of programs and projects in Syria, focusing on healthcare, food security, education, and economic opportunity. The project started in 2025 and will last through 2030.

These programs aim to help approximately two million

Syrians over a five-year period.

This recognition places IRUSA among a global network of organizations working on the front lines of humanitarian relief. It affirms the impact of our continued efforts to serve communities in need through innovation, compassion, and strategic partnerships. As part of this cohort, we will have the opportunity to collaborate with thought leaders, philanthropists, and fellow changemakers to scale our initiatives, strengthen our response strategies, and amplify our voice on a global platform.

***"Islamic Relief USA has long worked on issues and subjects impacting the Syrian people. They have an enormous opportunity to build a promising, stable, and functioning society that will deliver essential services in a dignified manner. But they can't do it alone," said Ahmed Shehata, CEO of IRUSA.***



“WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN LAUDABLE CAMPAIGNS OVER THE YEARS BY VARIOUS ENTITIES TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, THEY HAVE BEEN CHRONICALLY UNDERFUNDED, PREVENTING EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FROM BEING IMPLEMENTED. WITHOUT ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE RETURNING TO SYRIA AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF MILITARY ESCALATION AND INSTABILITY, THEY RISK MISSING OUT ON OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE A BETTER LIFE. OUR COMMITMENT TO SYRIA UNDERSCORES THE NEED TO FILL IN AN EVER-WIDENING GAP.



## AHMED SHEHATA NAMED EMINENT ADVOCATE FOR UNHCR

On September 26, 2025, in a historic recognition of humanitarian leadership, the CEO of Islamic Relief USA was named an Eminent Advocate for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR]. This prestigious designation highlights the deep impact Shehata has made over decades in championing the rights, dignity, and protection of displaced people around the world.

This appointment is a personal recognition of the CEO's lifelong commitment to humanitarian service. For years, he has been at the forefront of advocating for displaced families, speaking out against injustice, and ensuring that the most vulnerable have access to safety and opportunity. His leadership has taken him from

refugee camps and conflict zones to the halls of Congress and international summits, where he has consistently pushed for policies that protect people forced to flee.

As an Eminent Advocate, the CEO joins a select group of global leaders entrusted with amplifying refugee issues on the world stage.

**“This honor is deeply humbling,” Shehata stated. “It is a reminder that our collective duty is to stand with refugees, to recognize their humanity, and to ensure**

**they are given the chance to rebuild their lives with dignity. Refugees inspire us with their resilience, and I am honored to serve as their advocate.”**

This honor comes at a time when displacement is at record levels, with more than 120 million people worldwide forced from their homes.

His appointment signals the urgent need for moral leaders who will not only respond to humanitarian needs but also push for systemic change.



Shehata named Eminent Advocate for UNHCR

## IRUSA ACCEPTS AWARD FROM THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

On January 23, 2025, IRUSA CEO, Ahmed Shehata accepted an award from the office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] for their close cooperation and partnership. The award was bestowed by the USA for UNHCR CEO, Suzanne Ehlers.

In the award, the UNHCR, Filippo Grandi, writes that, “We are proud to have Islamic Relief USA as a partner and to have your personal support, both of which exemplify how faith, compassion and decisive action can converge to provide real solutions to those who have fled conflict and persecution.”

The award was presented to IRUSA after an agreement made between the partners signed in 2024 at a ceremony in New York at the United Nations General Assembly. The agreement will serve to strengthen advocacy around protection and solutions, and garner much needed financial assistance to address the challenges refugees globally face.



Shehata accepts award from UNHCR on behalf of IRUSA

## FROM DC TO NY, AHMED SHEHATA RAISES AWARENESS ON THE PLIGHT OF DISPLACED PEOPLE

At a time when we are seeing a dismantling of reception of refugees both to the US and globally, IRUSA and UNHCR, along with USA for UNHCR, spent the 2025 Ramadan season celebrating all the positive contributions that refugees bring to our communities.

The organizations, joined by partners in the humanitarian space, came together for two iftar events, one in Washington, DC, and the other in New York City. And while in NY, the groups spoke alongside each other during a panel session at the UN Conference on the Status of Women [UNCWSW].

Shehata spoke of a twice-displaced Syrian orphan, Zahra, he met following the devastating earthquake in Türkiye. He spoke of the strong tradition of the care of refugees in Islam, and recounted the tale of the Hijrah, when the followers of the Prophet [SAW] fled from Mecca to Madinah to seek refuge from persecution.

Other speakers included Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society [HIAS], United Methodist Committee on Relief [UMCOR],

and a Syrian refugee working for the Refugee Congress.

On March 20, 2025, a panel entitled Women on the Move — Inclusive, Intersectional, and Faith-sensitive Approach, was held in partnership with both UNHCR and the University of Birmingham UK to launch a new paper which IRUSA had reviewed and endorsed. That briefing outlined the intersecting and complex needs of women and girls on the move, aiming to support humanitarian efforts in developing inclusive, intersectional, and culturally-sensitive approaches to help improve their health and well-being.

Following the panel, a second iftar was held in New York, and this time included faith partners such as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a co-sponsor, along with the Society of Foreign Consuls of New York, the fourth cosponsor who sent an entourage of diplomatic members.

Shehata spoke again to those assembled about how it will be our duty to share resources as the dismantling of refugee organizations is taking place. The need to welcome them and care for them until they reach self-sufficiency in new lands will not diminish.



Shehata addressing the audience at the USA for UNHCR iftar in NY



Shehata shaking hands with Pakistan's ambassador to the US

## IRUSA CEO MEETS WITH PAKISTAN'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

On August 12, 2025, Ahmed Shehata and Arafat Yusuff, IRUSA Chief Operations Officer [COO], met with Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, to discuss our ongoing projects in Pakistan and our upcoming Medical Mission Program beginning in November of 2025.

The ambassador was thrilled to learn that IRUSA has served in Pakistan for decades, and continues to provide humanitarian aid and development assistance across the country today. IRUSA has implemented **\$25 million** in Pakistan through our past projects such as our Action for Drought Adaptive Practices and Transformation project and Integrated Initiatives for Disaster-Affected Communities. The ambassador also welcomed our commitment of **\$13 million** for our active and upcoming projects, including the Medical Mission Program.





## GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

In today's interconnected world, the health of one community inevitably impacts the well-being of others. The rapid spread of pandemics, the rise of preventable diseases in underserved regions, and the deep inequities in access to healthcare all point to an urgent need for a stronger, coordinated global health initiative. These efforts would not only address immediate medical crises, but also build sustainable systems that protect future generations, ensuring that every person — regardless of where they live — has access to essential care.

IRUSA has long recognized this critical need, and, in 2025, launched its Global Health Initiative Program, driven by five critical components, to build and implement sustainable healthcare solutions:

- Conducting needs assessments to work with emerging economies and vulnerable populations in identifying health priorities on the ground
- Transferring knowledge and supplies by supporting health ministries and hospitals with medical equipment, supplies, and pharmaceuticals, and providing biomedical assistance to maintain and repair devices
- Deploying medical missions that send physicians and nurses to deliver care, while training local medical professionals to strengthen regional capacity
- Implementing mid- and large-scale development programs that address systemic barriers such as limited access to healthcare
- Carrying out comprehensive evaluations to measure impact, assess progress toward goals, and identify opportunities for improvement

### Gaza

IRUSA funded a project that sent medical professionals to Gaza, aimed at providing urgent medical care, training local health professionals, and rebuilding healthcare infrastructure through **9,979** medical procedures, **234** wound care treatments, and **7,926** consultations.

We are amongst the first mental health workers to be here, trying to manage the mental health crisis that has emerged over the last many months,” stated Dr. Deborah Weidner, an American psychiatrist on the medical mission in Gaza.

“In our initial week and a half here, we are seeing a demand for mental health services way beyond our capacity to manage and it will continue to get worse and worse,” she continued.

The mental health crisis in Gaza has reached an unimaginable scare. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), at least one in four Gazans are estimated to require urgent mental health support.

“We have been splitting our time between the mental health clinic here, sometimes seeing 70 patients a day in a matter of five or six hours, and regularly seeing 50 patients a day, every day. The rest of our day we spend talking to the doctors and nurses about the absolute enormous stress and exhaustion that they are facing.”

Also part of the medical mission, doctors and nurses are working in the Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Room at a hospital in Gaza.

“

*I am seeing the most horrific things I have ever seen. Every day there is a new mass casualty of children, a lot of children, men, women, innocent people who are coming in, being killed and injured by airstrikes. I am seeing children with gunshot wounds to their head, and seeing many people die and suffer from things that could be treated if we had the right medications, equipment, or supplies.”*

— An American nurse on the medical mission.

Doctors and nurses on the ground are working around the clock, often with little more than determination and faith. Yet, despite their tireless efforts, the sheer scale of the crisis is more than any local system can handle.

Our medical missions aim to bridge the gap where healthcare systems are overwhelmed, bringing immediate relief and long-term capacity-building to communities in need.



To learn more about Islamic Relief USA's health projects, visit:

[irusa.org/medical-missions](https://irusa.org/medical-missions)





# زكاة Zakat

## IRUSA Hosts First-Ever Zakat

### Symposium in the US

Islamic Relief USA partnered with the Muslim Philanthropy Initiative [MPI] at Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy to host the first-ever Symposium on Zakat in the Contemporary United States. The gathering brought together scholars, practitioners, and community leaders for an open and thoughtful dialogue on the role of Zakat today.

The discussions highlighted several pressing needs: greater transparency in Zakat management, acknowledgment of the challenges facing those administering it, and the importance of institutions creating and sharing clear Zakat policies. The symposium also underscored the value of building stronger connections between religious scholars, academics, community leaders, and on-the-ground practitioners.

By embracing these approaches, the Muslim-American community can strengthen Zakat as a powerful vehicle for justice, in compassion, and empowerment — helping to cultivate trust among donors, recipients, and those who manage Zakat alike. The event concluded with reflections on what a shared framework for Zakat policies — not just principles — could look like for Islamic humanitarian organizations in the United States and, more broadly, across the West.



IRUSA follows the scholarly ruling that the poor and needy are the primary categories of people to receive Zakat. Given that, those are the two groups IRUSA specifically focuses on when it comes to Zakat disbursement and believes it is acceptable to give all Zakat to individuals who are in those groups.

Many of IRUSA's programs are Zakat-eligible, and donations to IRUSA's Global Zakat fund will reach people in great need in dozens of countries around the world, even in hard-to-reach places.



#### EXAMPLES OF WHAT A DONATION TO IRUSA'S ZAKAT FUND COULD PROVIDE:

-  Improved access to healthcare for women and children in Somalia
-  Food and non-food support to flood-affected communities in Sudan
-  Business coaching and startup funding for women in Palestine
-  Improved access to healthcare and clean drinking water in Albania
-  Maternal and child wellness support in Afghanistan
-  Increased climate resilience for families across Asia

*And much more — all in accordance with Islamic principles*

**IRUSA CAN ALSO ACCEPT ZAKAT AL-FITR, FIDYA, AND KAFFARA.**

[irusa.org/zakat](https://irusa.org/zakat)

# رمضان Ramadan



During the month of Ramadan, IRUSA provided food aid to **over 1.1 million people** through hot meals, food packages, and food vouchers. But that number only tells part of the story; our strategy shifted in the last few years and our focus has gone from sustaining for the short-term to creating opportunity for the long-term.

A clear example of this is our effort to enhance the impact of our food packages. In previous years, food packages were packed with enough food to last a family about two weeks.

Beginning in 2023, IRUSA began to pack and distribute food packages with enough food to support a family for the entire month of Ramadan (they are packed with items such as rice, wheat, lentils, oil, sugar, canned fish, dates and other items depending on the country's local diet).

That's important because when we deliver food packages that serve **over 1 million people**, we don't take into account how many meals each food package provides. If each person ate just five meals from each food package, which is a very modest estimate, that's **over 5 million meals**. That translates to real impact made in the fight against food insecurity in the 38 countries we served.

And what does that mean for the families served? That for one month they don't have to worry about where their next meal is coming from. It leaves them with more money to cover other essential expenses or even put money away for Eid gifts for their children.

Ultimately, a simple food package can mean so much more, and become a source of nourishment, opportunity, and hope.

[irusa.org/ramadan](https://irusa.org/ramadan)

# قربان Qurbani

In 2025, IRUSA served **787,583 individuals** during the Qurbani/Udhiyah season in **40 countries** around the world. Through this program, each donor's sacrifice becomes a lifeline — reaching widows, orphans, displaced families, and others striving to overcome hardship.

For countless families, the meat they received during this blessed season was the only chance they had to enjoy animal protein all year. These distributions made it possible for families to come together to celebrate the Eid holiday with their loved ones — restoring a sense of dignity and relief, and effecting real change against food insecurity.



[irusa.org/qurbani](https://irusa.org/qurbani)



# PUBLIC AFFAIRS, RESEARCH, AND ADVOCACY

In a troubled year for interfaith engagement due to protracted conflicts around the globe and increased polarization in the United States, the Public Affairs, Research, and Advocacy (PARA) team at IRUSA continued to prioritize alliance building with like-minded humanitarian organizations and change-makers working to build peace around a common mission.

## UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)



IRUSA representatives at the UNGA

On the margins of the 80th UN General Assembly High-Level Week in New York, IRUSA and ChildFund Alliance, together with Malala Fund, Plan International, and the Women's Refugee Commission, hosted a side event entitled **"Building Resilience and Strengthening Access to Education for Girls in Crisis Settings."** The event highlighted the ongoing barriers faced by girls, especially those in adolescence, in accessing their education, a fundamental human right, and raised awareness about the urgent need to protect education for girls, particularly in times of conflict, displacement, and other crises.

The Deputy Managing Director for Multilateral Relations, Human Rights and Democracy with the European External Action Service, and the Deputy Executive Director for Humanitarian Action and Supply Operations with UNICEF, delivered high-level remarks to open the event, emphasizing the life-saving and life-sustaining nature of education interventions for girls in humanitarian settings, and calling for critical support and attention to addressing barriers to access. These remarks were followed by a robust panel discussion covering case studies from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, the Central Sahel, and Uganda. The event served to bring together and build momentum with key stakeholders for more gender-responsive education policies and funding mechanisms tailored to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) in humanitarian contexts.

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS ENGAGEMENT

## IRUSA HOSTS CAPITOL HILL IFTAR



Shehata meeting with various members of congress

IRUSA held its 14th Annual Capitol Hill Iftar on March 24, 2025, providing an opportunity for staffers of various members of Congress — along with other government personnel and advocacy partners — to break bread and celebrate the values that are frequently espoused during the Islamic holy fasting month of Ramadan. Among the members of Congress who came by or made remarks were Rep. Andre Carson of Indiana, Rep. Delia Ramirez of Illinois, Rep. Jan Schakowsky of Illinois, Rep. Sarah Jacobs of California, and Rep. Judy Chu of California. The event emphasized the overarching purpose and spirit of Ramadan in demonstrating compassion to those in need and highlighted IRUSA's faith-based values that inspire us to implement and advance our humanitarian mission.

## IRUSA'S PARA TEAM VISITED CAPITOL HILL



On February 19, 2025, IRUSA's PARA representatives visited all **62 members** of Congress from the Congressional Black Caucus. They were invited to meet with Illinois Rep. Jonathan Jackson, who immediately sat with them and asked, **"How do we stop the hate?"** Rep. Jackson was excited to hear about IRUSA's work, and expressed support and interest in collaborating with IRUSA.

IRUSA was honored to have a seat at the table to provide input about the challenges facing the non-governmental organization (NGO) sector and opportunities for bringing increased prosperity to those here at home and abroad.

## IRUSA HOSTS IFTAR FOR ALEXANDRIA CITY OFFICIALS



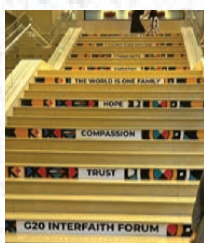
Shehata addresses Alexandria city officials during iftar

IRUSA hosted its 7th Annual City of Alexandria Iftar at IRUSA's VA headquarters on March 4, 2025, with the recently elected Mayor Aliya Gaskins. Gaskins, who previously served as a city council member before making history by being elected the city's first African-American mayor, thanked IRUSA for the invitation and described the annual iftar as one of her favorite events. She said the staff has always welcomed her and other city officials with **"overwhelming kindness and generosity,"** making them feel **"a part of the family."**





## IRUSA PARTICIPATED IN THE G20 INTERFAITH SUMMIT



PARA participated in this year's G20 Interfaith Summit hosted in Cape Town, South Africa. The summit, which took place ahead of the ministerial G20, focused on economic issues across the globe. According to the official website, South Africa's G20 Presidency took place at a time when the world is facing a series of overlapping and mutually reinforcing crises, including weather, underdevelopment, inequality, poverty, hunger, unemployment, technological changes, and geopolitical instability.

As of 2025, of the SDG targets for which trend data are available, only 35% are on track or making moderate progress. To achieve the 2030 SDGs, forthcoming G20 presidencies must encourage a paradigm shift and accelerate the implementation of practical solutions.

This year's interfaith summit was attended by more than **500 people** and brought together faith leaders, academics, government officials, policymakers, and others to issue policy recommendations to advance the interests of the most marginalized and vulnerable communities. IRUSA contributed to a report on global hunger and the role of faith-based responses and participated on a panel on global forced displacement with partners from Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, local Catholic leadership, and academics from South Africa. Gaza was top of mind this year for many, and the overall theme was Ubuntu. This African philosophy emphasizes the interconnectedness of individuals within a broader communal, societal, environmental, and spiritual context. Ubuntu is translated as "I am because we are" or "I am because you are."



To support these campaigns, sign up here: [irusa.quorum.us](https://irusa.quorum.us).

## GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY 2025 CAMPAIGNS

- GAZA CEASEFIRE 2025: CEASEFIRE IN GAZA AND HUMANITARIAN AID
- HELP SUDAN'S DISPLACED POPULATION: PROTECTION AND RELOCATION NEEDED FOR SUDAN'S DISPLACED POPULATIONS IN DANGER
- SAFER STRONGER US INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE: SAFER STRONGER WEEK OF ACTION
- KEEP AND STRENGTHEN SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)
- INVEST IN US FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
- SUPPORT THE FARM BILL: TELL CONGRESS TO INVEST IN LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Read "Islamic Framework and UN SDG 1: Eradicating Poverty through Faith-Based Humanitarianism," a paper co-branded by IRUSA and Portland State University as part of the launch of a new series on the SDGs through an Islamic framework.



SCAN TO READ



IRUSA's Advocacy Manager, Aseel Elborno, hosts our *What a Relief* podcast that aims to put a "human face" on global humanitarian issues, social justice, faith, identity, and other topics connected with Islamic Relief USA's mission. Take a look at some of the issues that were discussed in 2025 and follow the QR codes to learn more.

## Learn about IRUSA's Orphans Program



"Supporting orphans is a responsibility and a duty. I'm always asking myself, 'Are we doing our best, with the resources we have, to serve?' In Islam, a person's money is not their own. It is important to provide for themselves and their families, but also for the poor."

## Learn About IRUSA's Food Trucks and Hot Meal Program



"Hunger in America isn't just a poverty issue — it's a policy one. Hunger looks different on everyone, and though you may not see it physically in every case, the impact is real and growing. It's a policy issue that demands a collective response, and even small actions can have a ripple effect. Whether that's calling your representative, spreading awareness, or donating what you can — every bit of support helps in these scarce times."



*All podcast episodes are available at:*

[IRUSA.ORG/PODCAST](https://IRUSA.ORG/PODCAST)

# GET INVOLVED

Find out how people like you help strengthen our humanitarian efforts.







# MEAL PACKS

IRUSA's largest program is food aid, and, through the support of generous donors, the organization works year-round to bring food to families around the world. One way IRUSA does this is through meal pack-outs, where volunteers package dry-ingredient meals such as rice, beans, and dehydrated vegetables. Each package serves up to **six people**. The goal is to provide a basic, nutritious meal that recipients can enhance with additional protein or vegetables. This effort aims to combat hunger and ensure access to food for as many beneficiaries as possible.



On Jan. 9, 2025, then-President Joe Biden declared a national day of mourning to honor former President Jimmy Carter, who died on Dec. 29, 2024. IRUSA volunteers set to motion that day for a special meal-pack event, in recognition of President Carter's life-long dedication to humanitarian work. More than **15,000 meals** were packed to serve families in need around the Washington, DC area.



In recognition of Martin Luther King Jr Day in 2025, IRUSA staff and volunteers teamed up with Episcopal High School in Virginia to pack **40,000 meals** in just **two hours** on their school campus. Like MLK, our dream is to end food insecurity here at home, and around the world.

*"It was really beautiful to see our community working together in an interfaith experience. There were teachers there, students, volunteers, and staff. And everyone was so excited to help. Seeing the eagerness of the youth still wanting to be of help and knowing that they have an impact is very encouraging for our domestic efforts, masha'Allah."*

– Ala Yaktieen, IRUSA Social Media Specialist



On March 11, 2025, IRUSA staff and Google volunteers packed **280 food boxes** in Irvine, California. These food boxes last **families of 4-6** for about **2-4 weeks** with essential food items like rice, pasta, sauce, beans, oil, and dates.



IRUSA teamed up with the Islamic Foundation of South Florida to package **15,000 meals**. Over **70 volunteers** packed rice, beans, and dehydrated vegetables.



IRUSA hosted a meal pack in East Lansing, Michigan, a city we have never been to before. The multipurpose room was filled with **85 volunteers** who packed **21,000 meals**.

*"This one was an extra wholesome meal pack because the meals went to local masjid food pantries that needed these meals. The meals that were packed had protein, carbs, and veggies. Before we even finished cleaning up, all of the meals were picked up and immediately distributed to communities in need. The energy in the room was even more uplifting than usual since this was the first ever meal pack where we accommodated students with special needs!"*

– Wsmah Siddiqui, IRUSA Sr. Volunteer Engagement Specialist



To find a meal pack near you, visit:  
[irusa.org/volunteer](https://irusa.org/volunteer).





# Together We Serve FOR MOROCCO

In August 2025, IRUSA launched Together We Serve, a project where IRUSA staff and star volunteers are selected to participate and see firsthand some of the impactful work we are doing internationally. The inaugural project for Together We Serve took place in Morocco.

The project was a blend of cultural exchange, learning, and impactful humanitarian work, showcasing resilience and recovery efforts within the community. During their time in Morocco, the participants of the Together We Serve trip met our dedicated staff and partners, witnessed the initiatives accomplished after the recent earthquake in Morocco, participated in a cultural immersion experience, and engaged with the local community.



During the week there, volunteers assembled 4,000 school kits for low-income families affected by the earthquake, and took part in the distribution of these school kits. They also visited a selected school in collaboration with local Moroccan partners to paint classrooms, clean gardens, and prepare the school environment for the upcoming academic year.

The trip informed the volunteers about IRUSA's work so they can better advocate, promote, and generate support for IRUSA within their communities. We hope to create lifelong IRUSA advocates and ambassadors by investing in our young leaders across the country.

## From our Blueshirts



“My experience in Morocco has been profound. Alhamdulillah, we served on a lot of different sites, one of the sites being women-led enterprises that were affected by the earthquakes. We got to visit them and see how they rebuilt after the earthquakes and how Islamic Relief USA played a role in that.

IRUSA's CEO, Ahmed Shehata, reminded us that as Muslims, we need to shift from constantly responding to emergencies toward building sustainable relief efforts that empower communities to thrive on their own.”

—Yaqoub S.



“

The experience overall was life-changing. Coming from a Rohingya refugee background, I know what it feels like to need help and being on the other side, giving back was surreal for sure. Every day in Morocco brought a new lesson in hope, resilience, and humanity.

—Fatimah A.



Morocco was just our first stop. We're taking you around the world to see the impact of compassion in action.

[IRUSA.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://IRUSA.ORG/VOLUNTEER)





# ESTABLISH YOUR FOUNDATION WITH IRUSA WAQF

**Waqf** is an Arabic word meaning assets that are donated or bequeathed to be held in a perpetual trust for charitable causes that are socially beneficial. In many ways, the concept of waqf is similar to the Western concept of “endowment.” At IRUSA Waqf, the assets are invested in a well-diversified, Sharia-compliant portfolio, and a portion of the returns is used to create a reliable stream of income to ensure the long-term sustainability of IRUSA’s projects, while the remainder of the returns are reinvested in the waqf portfolio, preserving the principal to ensure the perpetuity of the waqf.

The Well of Rumah, also known as the Well of Uthman ibn Affan [ra], is a historic water well in Madinah. Today, part of the “Well of Uthman’s [ra] Waqf” is located about four miles northwest of Masjid an-Nabawi and north of Masjid al-Qiblatain. According to Islamic tradition, the well originally belonged to a man named Rumah, who sold the water for profit. At that time, it was difficult for Muslims, already struggling financially, to pay for the water they needed. At the request of Prophet Muhammad [SAW], Uthman ibn Affan [ra] purchased the well and made it a waqf for all — Muslims and non-Muslims. The well remains active today, and the waqf tradition continues. The Well of Uthman [ra] is part of an Islamic waqf whose revenues support the poor and pilgrims to the Haramain [Mecca and Madinah]. The waqf complex includes the historic well, date farms, remnants of an Ottoman-era reservoir, a mosque, modern wells, and a water tower.

Following in this remarkable Islamic tradition of the waqf, IRUSA launched IRUSA Waqf in 2014, an endowment foundation program that aims to protect the work we do in our communities while also ensuring that we can continue it for years to come.



There are several simple, inexpensive ways to contribute to IRUSA Waqf, such as through a charitable bequest. A bequest is generally a revocable gift, which means it can be changed or modified at any time. You can choose to designate a bequest for a general or specific purpose, so you have the peace of mind in knowing that your gift will be used as intended.

Another way to contribute to IRUSA Waqf is through beneficiary-designation gifts. You can designate IRUSA as a beneficiary of a retirement, investment, or bank account, or a life insurance policy. This is a flexible option because you can continue to use your account freely. You can also roll over your Individual Retirement Account [IRA] to IRUSA or transfer cash or assets to fund a charitable remainder unitrust or annuity trust.

You can also provide income for your children while donating to IRUSA. The “Give it Twice” trust allows you to transfer your IRA or other assets at death to fund a term-of-years charitable remainder unitrust. We call it a “Give it Twice” trust because it pays income first to your family for several years, then distributes the remaining balance to charity.

Lastly, you can donate cash or assets directly to help fund various waqf projects. IRUSA Waqf tailors charitable gifts to each donor’s financial, tax, and estate-planning objectives. By donating to IRUSA Waqf, you can secure sadaqah jariyah for years to come while ensuring financial stability during your lifetime.



To find out more about IRUSA Waqf, please email us at [info@irusawaqf.org](mailto:info@irusawaqf.org).



# INTERVIEW SPOTLIGHT

Kaylen Yun

Kaylen Yun worked as an intern in IRUSA's Public Affairs, Research, and Advocacy department in the summer of 2025. Read about her experience:

## Was there a moment or assignment that felt especially meaningful to you?

I had the honor of listening to a live recording of an episode of *What a Relief*, where IRUSA Advocacy Manager Aseel Elborno interviews Duaa Randhawa, the Orphan Support Program Manager at IRUSA. I enjoyed learning more about the details and structure of this program and how impactful it has been in upholding justice for orphans around the world.

I then wrote a blog about the podcast.



## How did this experience shape your perspective on humanitarian work or nonprofit organizations?

I learned that, despite the many challenges in doing humanitarian work, it is very worth it and critically important. It is heartwarming to think of the lives that are saved and the well-being that is preserved because of IRUSA and other humanitarian organizations. Interning at IRUSA made me eager to work in international development and aid in the future. IRUSA also does an amazing job spreading the word about the importance of humanitarian work, which makes me eager to continue advocating for and fighting for communities that are most in need.

## What goals did you have going into the internship?

My goal going into the internship was to understand how NGOs and nonprofits in the international development and aid fields engage with other organizations and with the government. I definitely feel that I learned this. I also improved my writing skills, and got the opportunity to participate in high-level meetings, networking events, and conferences.

## What’s one memory from your time at IRUSA that you’ll never forget?

Aseel Elborno [Advocacy Manager], Ikram Abera [Public Affairs Coordinator], and Christina Tobias-Nahi [Former Director of Public Affairs] took me and my fellow intern, Safa, on a tour of the Thomas Jefferson Building and the Capitol. They knew that being in Washington, DC, was a unique experience and they were eager to help us maximize our time there. Following the tours, we hosted an intern networking event where we got to meet fellow students who were working in DC, and it was amazing to exchange stories and experiences.

## What advice would you give to future IRUSA interns?

I would tell future IRUSA interns not to be afraid to ask for help, and to share honestly about what you hope to gain from the internship. The staff are eager to not only have you contribute, but they also want the experience to be beneficial and impactful for you! Also, seek to have conversations with IRUSA staff in other departments, because I learned a lot about the general ecosystem of nonprofit organizations by doing that.

## If you could sum up your internship experience in three words, what would they be?

Eye-opening, engaging, fulfilling.

Inspired by Kaylen?

Explore our current intern opportunities here!







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CAN YOU SPOT 10 DIFFERENCES?

Our Blueshirts are out volunteering — but something looks a little off!  
Can you spot all 10 differences? Look closely and circle what's changed!





# DESIGN YOUR OWN MOSQUE

A mosque is a special place where Muslims go to pray. Mosques can look very different around the world — many have tall towers called minarets, big domes, and beautiful patterns.

Now it's your turn to design your own mosque! Add colors, shapes, and decorations to make it your own. Use your favorite colors and fun patterns to make it special!



## CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE



### MATCHING GIFTS

Your donations can be even more powerful when you register them for Matching Gifts! Employers often offer their employees the matching-gifts incentive to encourage charitable giving — sometimes, they even extend their matching program to include donations made by an employee's spouse or by retired employees. Participating in Matching Gifts means the power of your donation can be multiplied with no additional cost to you.  
[irusa.org/matching-gifts](https://irusa.org/matching-gifts)

## IRAISE

### IRAISE

IRaise is the #1 virtual crowdfunding platform for IRUSA volunteers and influencers, designed to make fundraising easy and impactful. As an IRaiser, you can choose a cause that resonates with you — whether it's providing humanitarian aid in Gaza, building a well in South Africa, or distributing hot meals across the US. Create a custom page with your name or your team's, set a goal, and share it on social media. Watch donations roll in while we allocate funds to your chosen cause, so you can campaign with confidence.  
[irusa.org/iRaise](https://irusa.org/iRaise)



### DONOR ADVISED FUND

If you, your family, or your business have given to a donor advised fund, you can recommend to your sponsoring organization to donate to Islamic Relief USA.  
[irusa.org/donor-advised-funds](https://irusa.org/donor-advised-funds)

## IROUND

### IROUND

Round up your spare change from daily purchase transactions to the nearest dollar, donate to humanitarian causes, and make a lasting impact.  
[irusa.org/iRound](https://irusa.org/iRound)



### STOCKS

Donating stocks is a great way to use your securities to help IRUSA provide vital aid around the world.  
[irusa.org/stock-donations](https://irusa.org/stock-donations)



### CAR DONATION

Ready to get rid of your car, motorcycle, boat, or even jet ski? Donate your vehicle and the proceeds will support IRUSA's humanitarian work.  
[irusa.org/cars](https://irusa.org/cars)



### WHATSAPP



Join our WhatsApp channel to get updates, stories, and new ways to support.



### CREATIVE GIVING

There are several more creative ways you can support IRUSA's humanitarian programming. From turning your personal shopping into a charitable experience to crowdfunding, check out the full list at:  
[irusa.org/creative-giving](https://irusa.org/creative-giving)



Scan for more ways to give.



# Featured ISLAMIC RELIEF USA AMBASSADORS



“

One thing that stuck out to me was the driving force behind all of [the staff] working for Islamic Relief USA. This organization, may Allah (SWT) reward them for the work they are doing. Just trying to reach the people that haven't been reached. The professionalism that I see with the disbursement of the funds and the ihsan that is taking place when the funds are received – May Allah (SWT) make you of those that whatever you give with an organization such as Islamic Relief USA, to rest assured that it will reach those in need.”

Sheikh **ABDULLAH ODURO**

“

Islamic Relief USA's work is systemic. It doesn't just serve the poor, it doesn't just serve the underserved, it serves communities in so many ways. I trust Islamic Relief USA as one of the premier Islamic charitable vehicles in America. Islamic Relief USA is an organization you can trust, support, and help grow. I want to encourage you to support the work of Islamic Relief USA. Barak Allahu Feekum.”

Imam **SUHAIB WEBB**



“

Seeing the gratitude and the love in the eyes of people who are just like us — they are one and the same. They are leading salah (prayer) the same way we do, reciting the same surahs (chapters), but looking at us with eyes [that] really finally believe there's an ummah (community) out there. It makes the obligation for us to really not just give what we have, but give as if there is no end to the giving because of the level of need.”

Dr. **DALIA FAHMY**



**Assalaamu Alaikum. Peace Be Upon You.**

As we close out another edition of *Partnership*, I find myself reflecting on how far our community has come, and how much more we can achieve together. Each story within these pages reminds us of the power of compassion, the strength of faith, the importance of prayer, and the unshakable belief that when we come together, we can transform lives.

From responding to devastating crises to helping families with long-term development, IRUSA has stood alongside communities with unwavering commitment and care to more than **6.3 million** across **60 countries**. And none of this would be possible without you — our donors, volunteers, staff, and partners — who continue to embody the values that define who we are.

As we look ahead, our mission remains the same but grows ever more urgent: to serve those in need with dignity, and bring hope where it's needed most. Together, we will continue to build a world rooted in mercy, compassion, and shared humanity.

Thank you for being a part of this journey, and for making *Partnership* not just a magazine, but a living reflection of our collective heart.

Jazak Allahu Khairan.

Sincerely,

**Ahmed Azam**  
Chairman of IRUSA Board of Directors

# Thank You!



# ISLAMIC RELIEF USA

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