




Waqf

WAQF ANNUAL REPORT 2011





“ Islamic Relief has given us the opportunity to live with respect. It is a great gift to us. ”

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Assalamu 'alaikum/Peace be upon you all,

Waqf can provide help for almost all the needs of human society, but it relies on the generous people to sow the seeds for a better future. Islamic Relief Waqf has been growing continuously, funding projects in many parts of the world.

In this report, you will find a summary of projects implemented in 2011, which highlights how your kind contribution have benefited the vulnerable and needy people, and how it helped them to change their lives for better.

Sustainability is very important in Waqf, that's why our projects aim to have sustainable outcomes too. We do that by empowering the poor to live better life with dignity, whether through training and long-term employment of women in Kosovo, or building durable houses for orphans in Bangladesh.

In addition to that, in 2011 we used the profits to fund other projects: from life saving food distribution to victims of volcanic eruption in Ethiopia, to sending children to school in Sri Lanka, helping a remote community in China to access water and equipping hospitals in the West Bank.

In 2012 we are hoping to strategically review and improve the Waqf programme, to ensure better and effective investment for your donation. Thank you for your support and we pray that we all increase the benefits and rewards for you and those in need.

Wa salaam (In peace),



Heshmat Khalifa
Internatinal Fundraising Development Division Director

Emergency Supplies

Project expenditure
€19,607

Beneficiaries
3,000 people

Already struggling after two years of low rainfall, a volcanic eruption in July 2011 was a huge blow to people in the Afar Region of Ethiopia, with widespread loss of livelihoods, homes and health. 48,000 people were affected, and a further 167,153 left vulnerable, by severe food insecurity in the aftermath of the eruption.

Islamic Relief provided 3,000 of the worst affected displaced people with life-saving nutritious food such as haricot beans, wheat, fortified food and high energy biscuits.

Mother-of-two, Hawa Mussa Ahmed, described her situation following the eruption as “very hard. It is like going from living to non-living. I couldn’t call this ‘life’.”

Nevertheless, although Islamic Relief was able to address just one of the many problems Hawa faced, she was grateful for the variety of food provided. While the local government supplied only carbohydrate-rich wheat, this was creating health problems for her family: “My father gets a sick stomach if he only eats wheat. The food from Islamic Relief is easy to prepare and consume, and has no side-effects on our digestion.”



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Showered with Blessings

Project expenditure
€30,992

Beneficiaries
450 people from
90 households

The Xisi Township in China is set high up in the mountains where the climate is very dry, and deep valleys make it difficult to travel and collect water. Small mountain springs provide brackish water, but when they dry up in the drought season, women and children travel as far as 30km to fetch water. This has a significant impact not just on villagers' health, but also on livestock and agriculture, on which their livelihoods depend.

Islamic Relief is building 90 rainwater harvesting systems to support families – consisting of cellars, cisterns and catchment devices – providing 450 people with fresh, clean drinking water on their doorstep. Local residents will also be trained on hygienic water use and storage, as well as how to maintain the systems.

By involving them in the building and maintenance of the harvesting systems, Islamic Relief is giving local residents ownership over this project. The systems are simple to maintain, making the change sustainable. This empowers the local community to keep themselves out of poverty, achieving one of Islamic Relief's key goals: helping the poor to enjoy self-reliance with dignity.

36 years old, Axiya La, said: "After the construction of rainwater storage cellar and catchment, we were provided with technical and financial support. It is exciting and very convenient for me to get water at my door, I can drink when I am thirsty; clean face and hands when I want, and now I can also keep livestock to generate income".



Helping the poor to
enjoy **self-reliance**
with **dignity**.

Marvellous Medicine

Project expenditure
€21,647

Beneficiaries
33,450 patients

Movement restrictions in the West Bank have a severe impact on the health services available to poor and marginalised communities. Clinics are provided in some regions by local charitable organisations, but patients are often let down by the lack of key medical equipment and medicines.

Islamic Relief worked with charitable clinics in three communities to benefit over 33,000 local patients. Vital equipment was provided, from sophisticated X-ray machines and heart monitors, to basic but essential items such as trolleys and measuring scales.

As well as hospital equipment, Islamic Relief also provided much-needed medicines, including antibiotics, pain relief, and medication for chronic conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes.

Although long-term, these illnesses are easily manageable with access to the necessary medication, preventing more serious consequences. Sarah Hamdan, aged 35, knows how important this is: “Now I can get my diabetes medicine from the clinic, and my mother-in-law receives blood pressure medicine with regular check-ups. Now I have no worries regarding my children’s health conditions...may God bless you all.”



“ Now I have no worries regarding my children’s health conditions...may God bless you all. ”

New Homes, New Lives

Project expenditure
€44,320

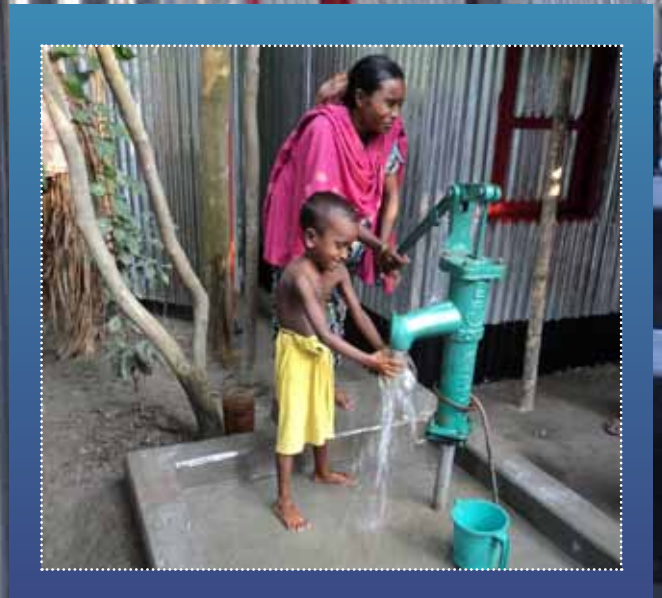
Beneficiaries
**100 orphans &
their families**

For orphans and their families in Bangladesh, it is a daily struggle finding enough food to last from morning until night. Focusing just on staying alive, there is no time to worry about housing conditions – but dilapidated shelters and contaminated water lead to illnesses, making survival even more difficult.

Islamic Relief identified 100 of the most vulnerable orphans, prioritising female and disabled children, and built them sturdy new homes using locally sourced materials. Many were travelling long distances to water sources polluted by open toilets, so each home was supplied with a latrine, and 94 tube wells were installed – providing safe water not just to the orphans, but the surrounding community too.

Finally, an awareness session was held to teach families about house maintenance and water sanitation, in the hope of halting dangerous but preventable waterborne diseases, such as dysentery and diarrhoea.

7-year-old Shudha Rani's mother has long wished for a better home for her children: "I always worried about my children's future, how they would survive and where they would sleep. But I was struggling for food, so how could I build a house?" Now however, she has reclaimed some of her dignity. "Islamic Relief has given us the opportunity to live with respect. It is a great gift to us."



“ Islamic Relief has given us the opportunity to live with respect. It is a great gift to us. ”

From Rags to Riches

Project expenditure
€21,485

Beneficiaries
7 families

One of the poorest and least developed societies in Europe, unemployment is the biggest barrier to poverty relief in Kosova. Access to education is difficult and the school drop-out rate is high, particularly amongst girls – this means that later in life, women struggle to get a job and help support their families.

Islamic Relief has run a Professional Training Centre in Kosova for over two years, through which hundreds of women and orphans have learnt valuable skills, enabling many to find employment. Despite this, it is still difficult for middle-aged women to find work, so Islamic Relief opened a clothes factory employing 7 women over the age of 40.

In just a few months, the factory was supplying uniforms and bed sheets for local schools, and plans are in place to open a shop, whose profits will help fund other Islamic Relief projects in Kosova – benefiting even more orphans and families in need.

For Bahtije Xhemajli, 42, working in the factory means a better life not just for her, but for her entire family: her husband, who is unable to work due to disability, and her 5 children, whose schooling she could not afford without her new job. “You can’t imagine what this means for me and my family,” she says. “I feel like my life started since I met Islamic Relief.”



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Learning for Life

Project expenditure
€21,647

Beneficiaries
1,624 children
& their families

In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami, many Sri Lankan families were left with nothing. Eight years on, poverty is still a huge problem, and education is one of the first sacrifices families make when times get tough – with no money for school equipment, children often end up taking jobs to help ease the family's burden.

Islamic Relief provided 1500 children from the poorest families with educational packs, including bags, pens and exercise books. Some students couldn't even walk the long distance to school because they didn't own a pair of shoes, so Islamic Relief gave 124 students brand new shoes.

Since this project started, regular attendance amongst the children has improved, and the number of school drop-outs has decreased. Protected from child labour, students are not only being given their childhoods back, but also a chance for better future employment as a route out of poverty.

After the death of 7-year-old Samila's mother, she and her brother were left with their grandmother, who struggles to afford food, let alone school equipment. Samila wants to be a teacher when she is older, and is delighted to be able to attend school: "My class teacher used to punish me for not wearing shoes or having the right text books. Now I will remember the donors in my daily prayers."



“ My class teacher used to punish me for not wearing shoes or having the right text books. Now I will remember the donors in my daily prayers. ”

Something to Celebrate

Qurbani's carried out 173

Project Expenditure €10,908

Beneficiaries 2,076

Food insecurity in Kenya peaked in 2011, after a series of failed rains and rising food prices. Animals died due to the drought, robbing families of their entire livelihoods, and leaving them even less able to afford the expensive food prices.

Islamic Relief performed 173 qurbanis, or sacrifices, and distributed the meat to the poorest people in Wajir, Kenya – giving vulnerable groups like widows, the elderly and orphans something to celebrate on Eid al-Adha.

Some people, like Halima Abdi, 45, told us they “could not remember the last time they ate meat.” After the drought killed most of their animals, Halima moved to Wajir with her husband and eight children, hoping that life would be easier there. However, with no livestock and few available jobs, they are still forced to rely on food aid from local organisations. These usually include just enough basic items to survive, like rice and beans, so the qurbani meat from Islamic Relief was a welcome addition.

Like Halima, 35-year-old Timira Omar also struggles to feed a large family, and said that she survives by “supplicating to God” and taking loans to buy food. However, after receiving qurbani meat from us, Timira smiled with relief that she “would not have to worry about getting food for her family for at least two weeks”.



“ The future I leave to **God**, as He is the provider. But I hope food becomes affordable and readily available. ”

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