

INFOCUS

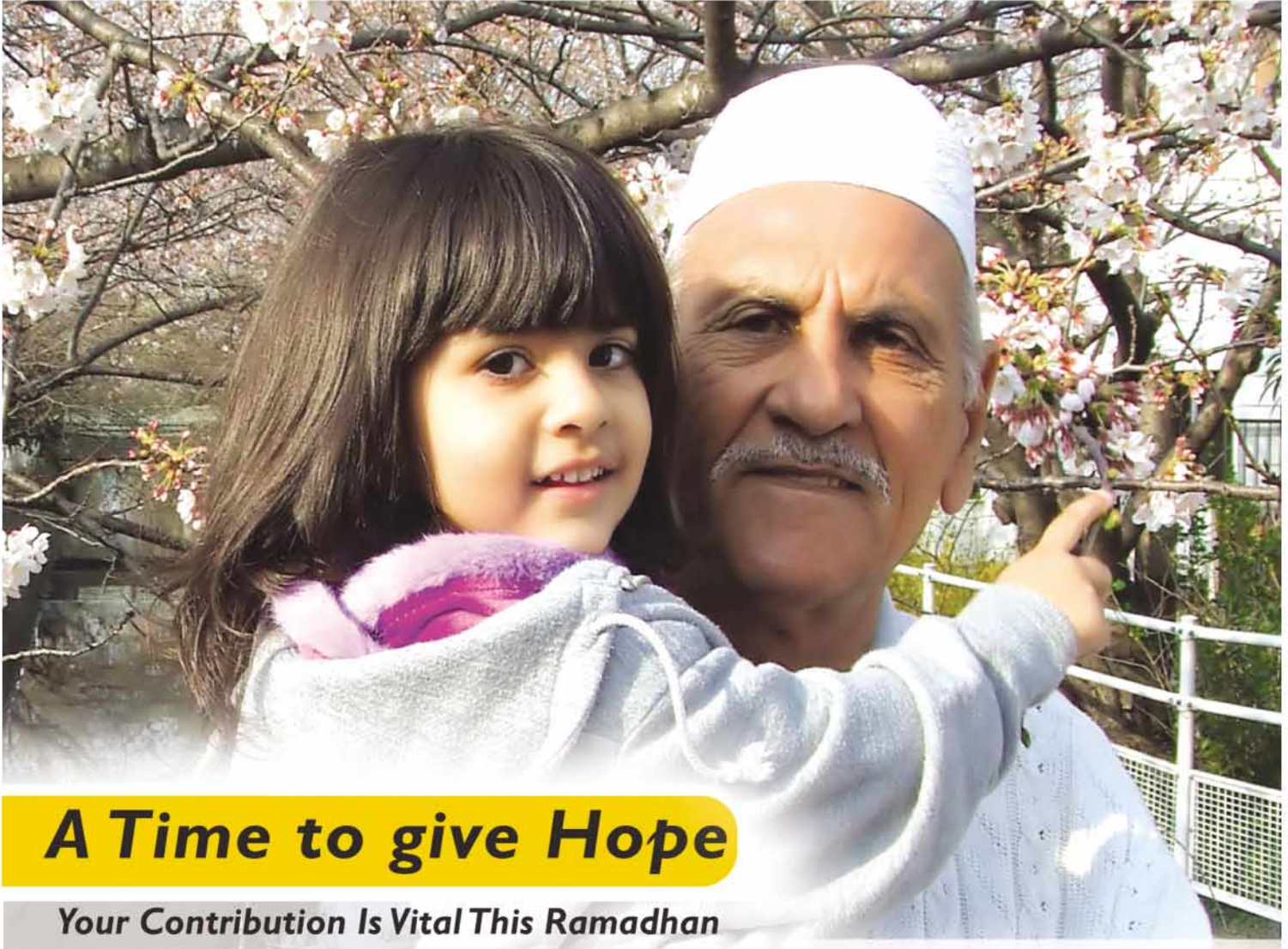


THE
WORLD
FEDERATION
OF KHOJA SHIA ITHNA-ASHERI MUSLIM COMMUNITIES
www.world-federation.org

Ramadhan 1427 / October 2006

Issue 2

A PUBLICATION OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF KHOJA SHIA ITHNA ASHERI MUSLIM COMMUNITIES



A Time to give Hope

Your Contribution Is Vital This Ramadhan

Ramadhan Relief

1427/2006

A Time to give HOPE

As you break your fasts in these coming weeks, take a moment to ponder on the lives of our Muslim brothers and sisters, many of whom struggle to break their fast. Tucked away in the unknown and unheard corners of the world are hopeful and tearful eyes of orphaned children and homeless families. As you take a moment to contemplate the favours bestowed upon you by Allah, spare a thought for those in need of your help and support.

Through the Ramadhan Relief Programme, we offer you the opportunity to transform compassion into action. Your donations can make a difference by removing hunger from thousands of fellow Muslims during the holiest month of the year – Ramadhan. Give hope by sharing a small portion of your own bounties, with those who often don't even have enough food to break their fasts. Your contributions can provide food and water to feed many Iftar in the fasting month.

Every year, with your generosity, the Ramadhan Relief Programme is able to touch the lives of thousands of people across four continents. We reach over 300 towns and cities in 18 countries worldwide including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Burma, Canada, India, Indian Ocean Islands, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand and Uganda.

This year, as the holy month of Ramadhan approaches, the World Federation and its network of dedicated volunteers are preparing to ensure that the deserving receive essential food provisions (Iftar), warm bedding and shelter.

If the hunger of our fellow Muslim brothers and sisters is a cause that touches your heart, there are many channels through which you can take action and make a difference today. You can donate (online or at your local Jamaat), sign up for an event, volunteer

yourself and encourage others to assist in this noble task. Your support will help us continue the fundamental task of providing basic needs.

Our request is for you to contribute the cost of at least one loaf per day in the name of Allah (SWT). In the rush of daily life, we often forget the hardships endured by our brothers and sisters. Were we to remind ourselves of the example of the AhlulBayt (AS), who gave a loaf to the poor, the orphan and the afflicted prisoner consecutively, we would not fail to remember the plight of those less privileged than us. The loaf you donate could go to a widow, who might for once be able to sit and do Iftar with her children, or to a destitute who would be able to soothe gnawing pangs after a long spell of hunger.

In acting collectively, our communities have touched the lives of impoverished Muslims, making a marked difference over the years. Yet, a simple glance around at the devastating reality of so many who still pass the day without a meal continues to bring tears to our eyes. We see the hopeful eyes of children who have been orphaned, the helpless hands of mothers made homeless and feeble bodies of the elderly scavenging the streets in search of shelter. Imagine if our communities bridged together...we could make such a lasting impact and a greater difference.

The Importance of Volunteers

Our inspirational volunteers from across the globe are truly the key to this operation. Each year the volunteers springboard into action, launching the annual Ramadhan Relief Programme. In addition to collecting eternal reward (thawab), the volunteers are the drive behind organising collections and raising funds in many cities of North America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Indeed, the more volunteers we have, the greater our potential to reach more individuals in need.

Will we simply watch on while millions suffer without reason? What are WE going to do?



Think of the father and son sharing a meal in their back yard (left) or the destitute widows cooking together in a makeshift kitchen simply to feed their families.





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Registered Charity in UK - No. 282303

Message From the President

Salamun alaikum

This year, with the grace of the Almighty, the World Federation is once again launching the Ramadhan Relief Fund, our small and humble effort to help the Muslims around the world. The Fund, launched every year during the Holy Month of Ramadhan, is intended to help orphans, widows, the elderly and all those in desperate need. Our contributions are sent to over 18 countries as far apart as Bosnia and Thailand, and over 300 towns, cities and villages across the globe.

We draw strength from the dedication of our community members from different corners of the world, who have relentlessly provided support through financial contributions and assistance through volunteering. We pray that during this month of benevolence, Allah (SWT) will shower His blessings on those who give in His way.

This year, special efforts will be made to assist those in need in war-torn Lebanon. As the appalling disaster unfolded, the conflict and its aftermath left over 1000 people dead and many more homeless. We are committed to supporting our fellow brothers in their hour of need. We have so far assisted in providing accommodation for refugees, essential medicines for the sick and clothing and food for the needy. The people of Lebanon still require our help.

This issue of Infocus outlines details of our achievements in past Ramadhan Relief efforts; there are many more people who require food, water and shelter all around the world who are struggling to survive. The World Federation urges all to donate generously, and each and every community member is requested to offer Dua to help alleviate their distress.

We hope that in these coming weeks, as we sit down to break our fasts, we will contemplate the favours bestowed upon us by Allah (SWT) and spare a thought for those whose lives are less fortunate than ours. Take this opportunity to make a difference and give a helping hand to those who may not even have enough to break their fast with.

Salaams and Duas

Ahmed Hassam

WE EXIST TO SERVE



You Make All the Difference Each Year, a glance back at 2005 / 1426

With your support, the World Federation has managed to reach communities and individuals throughout the world to provide humanitarian support year after year. Your donations and generosity make everything possible.

In total, you have aided 45 programs/projects, allowing over £230,000 (US\$430,000) to enter cities, towns and villages across the globe. Donations were raised in over 20 Jamaats as well as over a dozen universities.

Since last year we have funded nine orphanages in Uganda and your charity has helped us organise tableegh programs in South Africa also. Furthermore, donations collected during the 2005 Ramadhan Relief Program have assisted individuals in a variety of situations in many parts of the world. Let us have a look at where your contribution made a mark:

India

In the year 1426, the Ramadhan Relief programme distributed food aid to over 1,815 families in India. This was in association with the KSI Medical Aid and Welfare Society. The aid consisted of cooking materials such as flour, oil, rice, and tea.

With your funds, you have assisted us in supporting 770 families in Karnataka (India) as well as 120 widows and 160 families throughout India.

Distribution of food and cooking materials to Muslims in India



East Africa

In East Africa, most of the Ramadhan Relief and Fitra funds were distributed in several regions in cooperation with the Africa Federation.

Tanzania

One of the key projects carried out was in conjunction with WIPAS in Tanzania. Iftar and Sehri Programmes were organized at Wali-ul-Asr Education Centre where nearly 700 students are studying and living. At present, it is the largest Shia faith centre teaching secular and religious education in Africa.



Iftar was served every night after dua and lecture program at different mosques and madrassahs in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam by WIPAS and Dar al Muslimeen



Food ration distribution and iftar programmes were also held for impoverished Muslims in Dar es Salaam. Humanitarian aid was provided to various centres in areas like Singida, Dodoma, Zanzibar, Pemba, Moshi, Arusha, and Mwanza, and as a result more than 5,000 people are benefiting from these assistance projects.

An 'Open Kitchen Programme' was held at the Dar ul Muslimeen orphanage during Iftar time. This enabled the organisation to serve the needy people in the neighbourhood with hot meals. The Iftar programme was a huge success mainly because those who attended had the opportunity to take food parcels home after the Iftar. Donations also went towards the local schools, hospitals and the local prison.



Uganda

As part of last year's Ramadhan Relief efforts in Uganda, different programmes were held in Kampala and neighbouring areas. Both radio and television contributed to the wide range of publicity that greatly supported the programs.

In addition to providing much needed Iftars to the needy, the programme took on a variety of activities as a means to reach out to the community. Visits were made to Luzira prison to meet with inmates and inform them of the message of the Ahulbayt (AS). The community also distributed approximately 250 copies of the Holy Quran and clothing was donated to local orphanages.

Kenya

In Kenya, the Ramadhan Relief funds provided assistance to deserving Shia brethren in 25 mosques and centres throughout the rural areas; Iftar and family food parcels were provided; some of the items that were distributed included wheat flour, maize meal flour, sugar, rice, beans, dates, cooking oil, tea leaves and yeast.



Pakistan

Ramadhan Relief has also benefited deserving Muslims in Pakistan, having donated in excess of £62,000 to over 14 religious institutions in Karachi, Hyderabad, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Skardu and surrounding areas. The widows, orphans, students and deprived Muslims were given support through direct financial assistance and provisions for food (Iftar), clothing and bedding.

Sri Lanka

As part of its Ramadhan Relief Fund distribution, the World Federation carried out assessments in two Sri Lankan cities: Hambantota (a city devastated by December 2004 Tsunami) and Colombo (Wattala). As a result, it was able to identify the 50 neediest families in each area and distribute food parcels, including rice, throughout the Holy month of Ramadhan.

Bosnia

In Bosnia, the funds assisted centres in Sarajevo and Konjic. A total of £7,500 was provided to hold programmes every alternate evening during the Holy



month. The programmes consisted of iftar, lectures on a wide variety of topics, amaals and du'as. In Sarajevo Husainiya, approximately 100 people attended each evening. The community also carried out a 15 minute broadcast every morning on the local radio, thus spreading the message of the AhulBayt (AS).

Iraq

The much-needed funds were distributed to several Ramadhan Relief Projects in Sadr City, Baghdad. They also assisted many deserving Iraqi Refugees residing in Iran.



Iran

The Ramadhan Relief funds assisted over 1,000 Hawza students in Iran.

Overall, from India to Bosnia to the Serengeti, the World Federation has had the honour and privilege of engaging in humanitarian aid work during the holiest month of the year by supporting these various programmes through the Ramadan Relief initiative.

**“Allah (SWT) shall ward off
70 kinds of calamities from one who
gives charity in the month of
Ramadhan.”**

Imam Jaffer Sadiq (AS)



How can you help?

Your conscience will decide the fate of hundreds of Muslims throughout the world this coming Ramadhan - will you simply watch on as your brothers and sisters in faith pass through the fasting month without adequate food, drink or shelter, or will you stand up to make a difference to someone's life by sharing a portion of your own livelihood?

There are several channels you can go through to contribute to the Ramadhan Relief Fund. In terms of donations, you can send your donation cheques to the World Federation Office or you can also donate online at www.world-federation.org. You can also buy food vouchers which are then distributed to various regions worldwide.

Furthermore, you can touch the lives of many by becoming a volunteer. The Ramadhan Relief Programme is dependant on the hard work, commitment and selfless devotion of our volunteers. We are always in need of assistance to raise funds and venture out to make a difference, so if you are interested, please get in touch with us by email us at ramadhanrelief@world-federation.org

Remember that whatever little you can do will always mean a lot to those in desperate need.

The World Federation looks forward to the community's continued support and requests all to donate generously. Help us hear the unheard.

Don't you want to be a part of the change?

Volunteers can be the light bearers to those living in the darkness of starvation and abandonment. Your role is pivotal to this operation.

If you can spare some time and energy, we deeply encourage you to join our team.

If you're interested, email us at

ramadhanrelief@world-federation.org

The World Federation is also looking for dedicated volunteers worldwide to help raise money for Ramadhan Relief 1427.

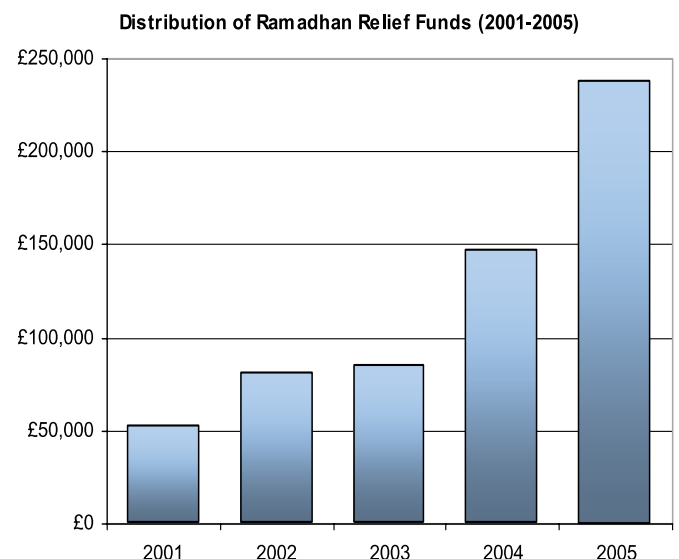
This is an excellent opportunity for one to seek the pleasure of the Almighty (SWT).

Source and destination of your contribution

Over the years, your donations to Ramadhan Relief have been growing at a rapid rate. In fact, last year the World Federation received almost £230,000 through Ramadhan Relief funds, a record level compared to previous years.

The overwhelming response in achieving the record setting amount is simply a reflection of the community's strong backing of the Ramadhan Relief agenda and a clear symbol of the multi-faceted benefits associated with this noble cause.

The chart below illustrates our community's capacity to impact change in poverty stricken areas of the world. Since the year 2001, your generous contributions have been distributed worldwide to various programs.



Each year the funds you have generated increase and are widely distributed to Muslims worldwide. Last year, you managed to raise the highest amount yet.

The relief effort by the World Federation is only possible through the continuous and generous donations of its benefactors.

“Defend your faith (in Allah(SWT)) with the help of charity. Protect your wealth with the aid of Zakat.”
Imam Ali (AS)



Ramadhan: A Month of Prayer

By Sister Sabiha Jaffer

The month of blessings approaches,
 Holy Month divine
 the banquet of Allah...
 and all the peoples gather,
 all races, genders, ranks,
 to help each other reach,
 reach the eternal Light;
 glorious Light, Light sublime

A month of unity and brotherhood and love all around
 what magnificence, what forgiveness!
 And as this approaches, we remember
 the heroes of a war,
 threading this theme through their lives
 of unity and togetherness...
 Hail the brave, the mighty,
 the strong of faith, and pray
 pray for the people of Lebanon.

Lebanon...

A country like its cedars
 once growing in the fertile soil of peace and harmony
 proud, strong, mighty...
 but now
 the branches of youth broken
 children, once blossoming buds, banished
 to the harsh reality,
 dreams shattered
 childhood lost
 never to be regained
 the trunk graying, heavy with grief and sorrow
 roots mercilessly ripped from beneath
 the cedar of Lebanon

O Ummah of Muhammad (SWT)
 let not our hearts be darkened,
 fill your souls, in this month
 with that sacred Light
 of love, mercy and compassion,
 let us embrace this wilting tree
 encompass it with our strong branches of love
 our leaves of unity
 let the fragrance of the flowers of friendship
 find its way to the suffering,
 our sisters and brothers
 our fathers and mothers
 our children
 and pray
 pray for the people of Lebanon.

Relief for the faithful in Lebanon

As soon as the bombardment stopped, many families started to head back home. Where there were hundreds and thousands of people in Syria during the war only, a few Lebanese refugees are now seen in Syria.

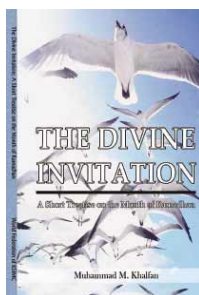
The World Federation is undertaking a needs assessment in Lebanon for the returning families, taking into account the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadhan. During the war, the World Federation remitted US\$ 20,000 to alleviate the suffering of Lebanese refugees in Damascus, Syria. The kindness by many of the donors who donated towards this project must have eased the worries of these refugees as they tried to find for themselves sustenance.

The World Federation appeals to Mumineen to support the collections for the Ramadhan Relief Fund and the continuing Lebanon Relief Fund.



Much of Lebanon lay in ruins

Relief for the Soul



The Divine Invitation: Each year, as we approach the holy month of Ramadhan, we are considered as the 'Special Guests' of Allah (SWT). What does it mean to be a special guest? Why is this month described as 'The Banquet'? In brief, this book provides logical analysis to these questions examining the spiritual dimensions of our lives.

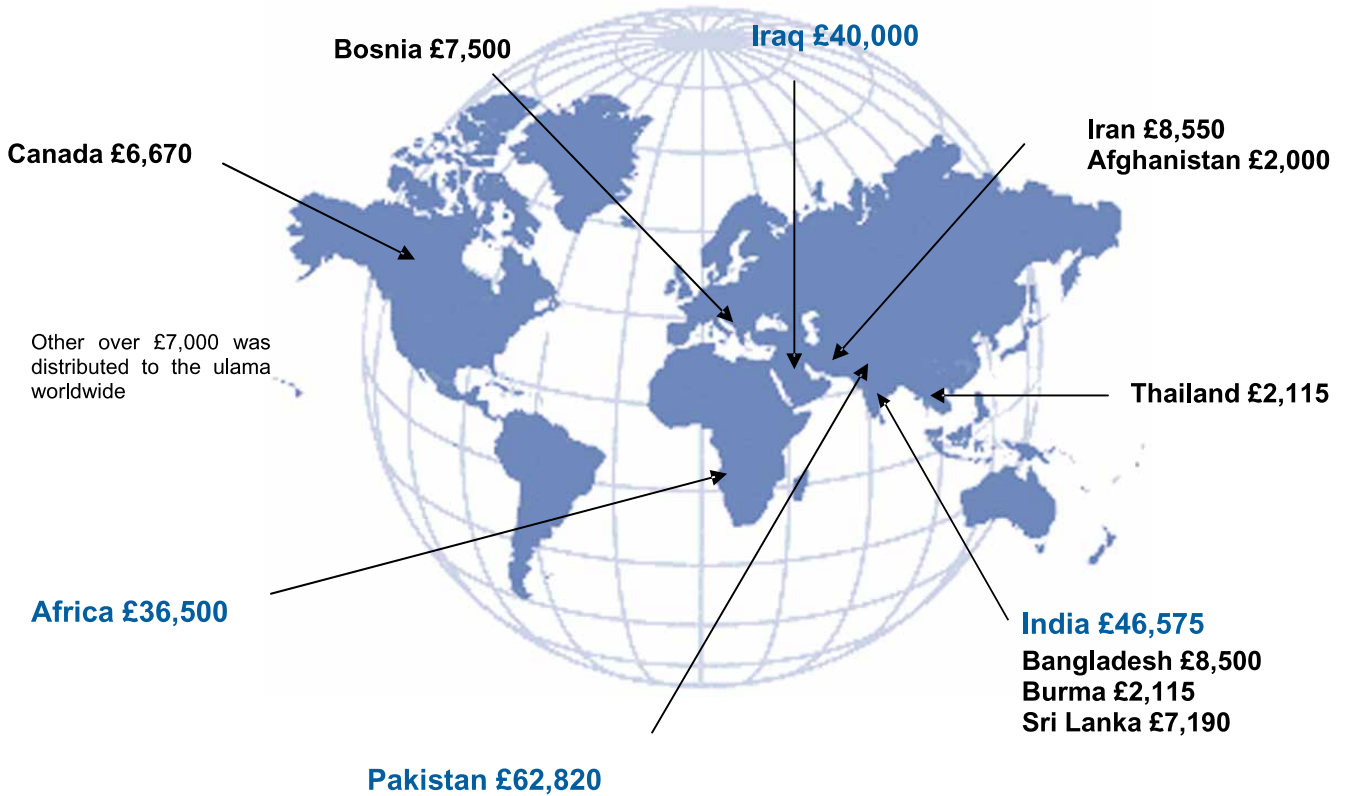
Various other enlightening books that can be your companion during the holy month of Ramadhan, are available from the Islamic Education Board.

For further information, visit

www.ieb.world-federation.org or email
ieb@world-federation.org



How Ramadhan Relief was spent last year?



**“Do not feel ashamed if the amount of charity is small because to refuse the needy is an act of greater shame”
Imam Ali (AS)**

✂

“Then give to the near of kin his due, and to the needy and the wayfarer; this is best for those who desire Allah's pleasure, and these it is who are successful.”

Ramadhan, A time for
Caring | Sharing | Reflecting | Fasting | Giving

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£ \$ _____

Currency form:
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 Postal Order

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 10 25 50 _____

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or please make cheques payable to
'The World Federation of KSIMC'
Islamic Centre, Wood Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 4LQ, UK

In brief

What is Ramadhan Relief? It is a gift, given during the Holy month of Ramadhan, to Muslims around the world who are deprived of the basic necessities.

Who is it given to? It is given to Muslims in 18 countries in different continents.

Why should I help? “Give to the near of kin his due, and to the needy and the wayfarer; this is best for those who desire Allah’s pleasure, and these it is who are successful.” **Holy Quran 30:38**

How can I help? You can give this gift to the deserving by:

- Donating any amount of money.
- Giving your time in volunteering to raise funds for the project.
- Inviting others to assist in this noble cause.

Who should I contact for more information?
You can email

ramadhanrelief@world-federation.org

