



THE
WORLD
FEDERATION
OF KHOJA SHIA ITHNA-ASHERI MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

40 ISLAMIC CENTRES *in* DAYS *campaign*

PAKISTAN FLOOD RELIEF
Project Status Report
OCTOBER 2011

“Only those shall maintain Allah’s mosques, who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and establish prayer, and give zakat, and fear no one except Allah. They, hopefully, will be among the guided.” (Holy Qur’an, 9:18)

BACKGROUND

In July 2010, Pakistan witnessed the worst monsoon rains in 80 years. This downpour caused catastrophic floods nationwide, causing both structural damage and a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions. With no food, no clean water, no homes to return to, The World Federation began working in partnership with Hussaini Foundation and launched the *Pakistan Flood Relief Appeal* to raise funds to provide aid to the flood victims.

But our work did not stop there. When Sayyid Aliraza Naqvi, the Assistant Secretary General for Islamic Education of The World Federation visited Pakistan in August 2010, he learned that in addition to the people's material losses, there was also the potential religious loss.

Over 200 Islamic Centres affected by the floods were also destroyed in the floods and the local scholars and alims were no longer able to preach.

These Islamic centres included mosques, imambaras and madrasahs and were either submerged in water or crumbled to the ground; those that were still partially standing were unsafe and deserted.

Needless to say, Islamic and spiritual guidance became virtually non-existent in these flood affected areas. This disaster had a huge impact on the nation's entire religious structure. These institutions were once the nucleus of rural communities and were instrumental in meeting the religious, spiritual and educational needs of so many men, women and children.

It was feared that if these villages remained without any religious centres, Islam would slowly disappear.



Photo: MOSQUE BASTI MACHI (DISTRICT DG KHAN, PUNJAB):

Mosque Basti Machi once stood a few feet away from this wilting tree. The flood waters completely destroyed it to the ground. When we visited this site in April 2011, there was no evidence that a mosque ever existed here.

UPDATE: REBUILDING OF ISLAMIC CENTRES

THE WORLD FEDERATION'S RESPONSE

Rebuilding Islamic Centres across Pakistan's flood affected areas is a vital step towards rebuilding communities that are scattered. In Muharram 1432, The World Federation launched the *40 Islamic Centres in 40 Days Appeal* to rebuild at least 40 damaged Islamic Centres. By re-establishing these institutions, it was our goal to keep the message of the Ahlul Bayt (as) alive.

Working together with Hussaini Foundation, 40 Centres were identified across Pakistan which we committed to rebuilding with the help of our donors. The World Federation called upon the support of our global community to help fund the reconstruction by either making a donation or sponsoring an entire Centre.

Thanks to donors from Africa, Australia, Europe, North America and Middle East, the appeal raised enough funds to construct and/or repair 105 Centres.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Brick by brick, the Islamic Centres sponsored through The World Federation are rising ground up in the remote and disadvantaged areas of Pakistan. To help manage the construction, the work has been divided into 2 phases:

Phase 1 (Punjab & Sindh Province)	
Total number of Centres	66
Number of Centres completed	29
Number of Centres in progress	37

Phase 2	
Total number of Centres	39
Number of Centres completed	0
Number of Centres in progress	0

Many of these new centres are being built as multipurpose complexes where activities of mosques, imambaras and madrasahs can take place in one building. This is the new trend especially in the Northern region of Punjab.

CHALLENGES ALONG THE WAY

Construction of these Centres first began in January 2011, and the project was expected to take about one year to complete. The reasons for this estimated length in time are as follows:

- The Islamic Centres are being built in the far and remote areas of Pakistan's rural villages;
- Transporting building materials into these regions is time consuming and laborious;
- In some areas, we make our own bricks to save money and time;
- Construction was expected to slow down during the hot summer months and during Ramadhan;
- With so many displaced families living in tents and under the open sky, priority was given to complete the construction of houses;
- Construction was delayed due to recent floods in Sindh Province in August 2011.

WORK IN PROGRESS

The World Federation is working closely with Hussaini Foundation to make sure that all 105 Islamic Centres are completed as soon as possible. The estimated date for the completion of Phase 1 is December 2011.

In the meantime, Hussaini Foundation's Regional Directors are allocating The World Federation sponsors to each of the completed Centres; they are also gathering all of the information, details and photographs on these 29 centres so that we can begin preparing reports for each of the donors who sponsored a Centre.

However, because of the recent floods in Sindh Province, collecting this information has become difficult as some of the roadways are entirely or partially inaccessible.

Nevertheless, the work being carried out for the completion of Phase 1 is well underway and we thank you for your patience. As soon as the information on these Centres is received and the reports are prepared, The World Federation will start contacting each sponsor.

THE WORLD FEDERATION OF KSIMC

Islamic Centre, Wood Lane | Stanmore, Middlesex UK HA7 4LQ

www.world-federation.org | relief@world-federation.org

Registered Charity in the UK, No. 282303

UPDATE: REBUILDING OF ISLAMIC CENTRES

PAKISTAN VISIT: APRIL 2011

Between 1st and 6th April 2011, The World Federation joined members of Hussaini Foundation of Pakistan to tour the sites where the Islamic Centres funded through The World Federation are being built. The team travelled in and out of several extremely remote villages throughout the provinces of Punjab and Sindh. All in all, they covered over 3,000 kilometres by air and by car in a span of 6 days. Here are some of the Islamic Centres in progress they visited:

MOSQUE IN ESCANWALI (MUZAFFARGARH)

In the village of Escanwali, 10% of the population are Shia Muslims (about 27 Shia families and 150 non-Shia families). When the floods hit, this entire town was underwater. The water level has receded and now a World Federation sponsored mosque is being built here.



MOSQUE AT GHAWSPUR: The first ever Shia mosque in Ghawspur is being built by The World Federation. There are about 50 Shia Muslim families living in this village and the mosque needs a resident Aalim to provide religious guidance. The World Federation has also built 50 new homes in this area for the displaced families.



MASJIDE IMAM ALI RAZA (AS), WANG DARBAR BUKHARI (DISTRICT OF RAJANPUR): The local people here are all sayyids who up until a few years ago had no religious guidance. Maulana Musa Raza Jiskani, in the district learned about the lack of religious knowledge in this community and began to guide the people back to Shia Islam. The previous mosque was built 5 years before the floods. Once the floods hit this village, the waters destroyed the mosque. Construction of this new masjid is complete and is sponsored by The World Federation.



VILLAGE RASOOL BUX VEESAR (DISTRICT OF JACOBABAD): The Islamic Centre built here was just completed and is sponsored by The World Federation. Most of the Shia Islamic Centres being built in Sindh Province have the same architectural appearance as this Centre. The World Federation also funded the wheat crop which surrounds the back portion of the village. Acres and acres of wheat were harvested in the spring by the families living in this village and the people are much happier now that they are more or less self sufficient.

