

INSIGHT


THE
WORLD
FEDERATION
Registered Charity in the UK No. 382303

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Issue 18

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



‘RAMADHAN RELIEF’

The month of Sharing

Reviving hope with a helping hand

In its continual efforts to make a difference to the lives of thousands of fellow Muslims, the World Federation, through its Ramadhan Relief Fund, strives to ensure the deserving poor receive Iftar, essential warm bedding, food provisions, draught relief, and cash for the destitute in many towns and villages. Need for relief is widespread, and the World Federation has been serving Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bihar, Bosnia, Burma (Myanmar), Canada, Gujarat, Hyderabad, Iran, Karachi, Karnataka, Mumbai, Punjab, Indian Ocean Islands, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand and Uganda.

Every year, the World Federation spends in advance funds for Ramadhan Relief and Fitra. This is in anticipation of generous donations being received from the community. The procedure being followed is for the convenience of donors so that your donations for Ramadhan Relief help the deserving in time of need, while your funds are still on their way to the World Federation.



Please help me

Preparations have already begun in earnest at local levels to purchase these foods in anticipation of Ramadhan. The logistics required for distribution are truly astounding, but the work is executed by volunteers ensuring homes receive the much-needed provisions in time.

With the holy month of Ramadhan approaching, the World Federation is once again launching the annual Ramadhan Relief Fund, which will assist numerous deserving families during the holy month.

This year a record sum of more than a third of a million dollars (USD \$350,000 and GBP £190,000) will be remitted to various organisations we work with.

No Amount Is Too Small

Our request is for you to contribute the cost of at least one loaf per day in the name of Allah (SWT). It is often hard to remember the hardships endured by our brothers and sisters; however, we should endeavour to follow the example of the Ahlulbayt (AS), who consecutively gave a loaf to the poor, the orphan



and the afflicted prisoner. This loaf might go to a widow, who would be able to sit and do Iftar with her children, or to a destitute who would be able to soothe pangs after a long spell of hunger.

“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)

The World Federation works in close association with local charity organisations to distribute aid to those most in need.

Volunteers needed

The World Federation is also looking for dedicated volunteers worldwide to help raise money for Ramadhan Relief 1426.

This is an excellent opportunity for one to seek the pleasure of the Almighty (SWT) during the holy month when every breath is a blessing.

For further information email

secretariat@world-federation.org or visit

www.world-federation.org



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**THE
WORLD
FEDERATION**

OF KHOJA SHIA ITHNA-ASHERI MUSLIM COMMUNITIES
Registered Charity in UK - No. 282303

Message from Secretariat**Salamun alaikum**

A few weeks ago, the azadars of Imam Musa al Kadhim (AS) suffered a tragic accident in Kadhmain, Iraq where many hundreds died and many more were injured, while crossing a bridge on their way to the Haram. Through the office of Ayatullah Seestani, where we have carried out several projects in Sadr City, we have decided to send relief to the injured and the families of the deceased. We pray for the deceased and the bereaved. May Allah (SWT) grant them rahmah and maghferat.

As we are blessed with the bounties of the holy month of Ramadhan once again, we must take time to pray to Allah (SWT) to grant us all tawfeeqat. During this month we are His guests, and it is His mercy that He showers upon us as He invites us to His banquet. Let us determine that this year we shall not leave without taking with us a spiritual enrichment that brings us closer to Him. We ask you to remember us all in the holy nights to come.

The past few weeks have been busy and productive for the Secretariat in preparing for the month of Ramadhan. The focus has been to ensure that the various Ramadhan Relief projects across the globe are launched in readiness for the holy month. We draw strength and encouragement from reflecting one of the commonly recited Ramadhan du'as in which we ask "O Allah, satisfy every hungry person". The Ramadhan Relief projects are but a small and humble way in which we too can assist in reaching the needy people out there.

Last year, Alhamdulillah, we were able to distribute USD \$260,000 worth of aid through the Ramadhan Relief project. This small token touched the lives of those in need across 168 towns in 13 Countries. We were able to do His work for His pleasure in places like Andheri, Badlapur, Chanarayapatna, Dodoma, Dharavi, Gatkopar, Ga-Rankuwa, Herat, Holenarispur, Jogeshwari, Kandivali, Kanjurgam, Lebrowakgomo, Machlipatnam, Nallasopara, Ottery; Palgar, Sakinaka, Shivoni, Sarajevo, Tshwane, Vakola, Wadala, Worli and Zanzibar.

We ask Allah (SWT) to help and guide

us so that we may continue to help those in need during the month of Ramadhan and beyond. We must remember that a little means a lot to those in need.

We hope that as mumineen sit down to break their fasts in these coming weeks, they will contemplate the favours bestowed upon them by Allah, and spare a thought for those whose lives are less fortunate, especially those in far away places such as Andheri. Take a moment to ponder what you might be able to do to uplift those who may not even have enough to break their fast with.

While we continue to offer a range of services in various fields, our aim should now be towards increasing quality rather than quantity. Education - both secular and Islamic remains our top priority.

We strongly believe that our work in the direction of education can be greatly enhanced by channelling our energies together and thinking at a strategic level. In doing so, we can build on the good work that has already been undertaken and extend it further. This approach has made and will continue to make a significant difference at the grassroots level, Inshallah.

In these days and nights when every breath is an act of worship, we pray that Allah makes us needless by becoming needy to Him, and does not make us poor by being needless of Him. May Allah (SWT) accept our ibadaah and may the holy month be uplifting for us all.

Secretariat - Mahe Ramadhan 1426

WE EXIST TO SERVE



A Look Back: Ramadhan Relief 1425

East Africa

In the region of East Africa, the Ramadhan Relief and Fitra funds were distributed in several regions and organisations in conjunction with the Africa Federation. Throughout the East African region, a total of £6,000 of Fitra and £20,830 in Ramadhan Relief funds were distributed to more than two dozen communities.

The Bilal Muslim Mission provided Iftar and Sehri assistance to needy Shia brethren at Masjids in the Rural Centres during Ramadhan 1425.



The programme involved provision for Iftar in mosques at 32 Centres and food parcels for 300 persons in which more than 1000 families, including 1700 children, benefited.

Some of the items distributed for Iftar were white flour (7,656 kg), maize meal (10,824 kg), sugar (3,900 kg), rice (2,400 kg), beans (6,390kg), dates (1,474 kg), cooking oil (2,770 kg), tea (164 kg) and yeast. Maize meals as food parcels were provided to more than 1,500 madressa students. In addition, all teachers in the centres were provided with Eid gifts.

The Tanzania-based WIPAHS (World Islamic Propagation and Humanitarian Service) spent Iftar on the first day of Ramadhan 1425 with the patients at Ocean Road Cancer Institute in Dar es Salaam. The volunteers of WIPAHS distributed fruits and vegetables, prayed for the relief of their suffering and shared the gift of Allah (SWT). The work WIPAHS



undertook to provide humanitarian and social support to those less privileged was only possible through the generous donations received from mumineen all over the world.

On the eighth of the month of Ramadhan 1425, WIPAHS volunteers in Tanzania opened their fast with some 60 orphans in Sinza, a suburb of Dar es Salaam. These poor orphans greatly benefited from the Ramadhan Relief that mumineen from our global community had the privilege of contributing towards.

“Under the direction of Haji Saheb, the work done by WIPAHS is truly exemplary. His selflessness and his devotion in the service of the Almighty is an example to us all”,

Dr. Hassam.

The Ramadhan Relief was also greatly beneficial to the Muslims in Dodoma, Tanzania through the independent Islamic Charitable Organization, Dar ul Muslimeen.



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

Burma and Afghanistan

The Ramadhan Relief was also distributed to the Muslims in Afghanistan and Burma. The dedicated institutions received £2,000 in each country, catering for the Ramadhan relief efforts during the holy month.



South Africa

In South Africa, the month of Ramadhan is a month of hyper-activity with intellectual and spiritual programmes. Last year, the programmes in most areas followed largely the same format, with nightly recitations of Dua Ifitaah, Dua Tawassul and Dua Kumayl. The nights of Qadr were also celebrated with all-night vigils, with some areas encouraging the adherents to participate in Itikaaf. Al Quds Day was celebrated at the same venue as used in recent years.

With thanks and gratitude to the generous donors, the World Federation was able to contribute £5,850 to organisations working in South Africa towards Ramadhan Relief.

The donations were distributed in many communities through the Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, and Western Cape Provinces.

India

The World Federation's Ramadhan Relief Fund gave the Council of Gujarat an opportunity to provide assistance to individuals within 38 local Jamaats during the holy month of Ramadhan 1425. The Ramadhan Relief Fund was also given to the KSI Medical Aid & Welfare Society of Mumbai, who distributed food grains to 1690 deserving Sadat and non Sadat families.



A further £11,700 was distributed to institutions in Bangalore, Hyderabad, Machlipatnam and Bihar.

Pakistan

The Ramadhan Relief also benefited the deserving Muslims in Pakistan, having donated over £60,000 to various organisations in Karachi and Hyderabad. The Relief efforts further assisted 14 religious institutions providing Iftar to over 900 students in Islamabad and Scardu.

Thailand

The World Federation assisted the Zainabiyah Educational Support Centre in Bangkok, Thailand by providing financial support of £1,422 through Ramadhan Relief. These funds were distributed to the needy, poor and sick in a total of 59 families as aid for their living cost and for their treatment during the month of Ramadhan. The families were spread throughout the country, and two ill mumineen, one suffering from heart disease and the other afflicted with cancer, also received aid.

Iran

The Ramadhan Relief funds assisted the Hawza students in Iran. Over 1,000 students benefitted from this scheme.

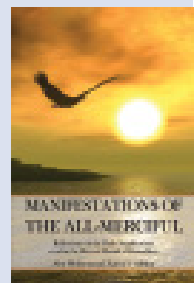
Canada

In Kitchener, Toronto and Montreal, the IHS's volunteers and United Muslim Women of Canada, with the World Federation's assistance, gave food baskets to the struggling and needy Muslim families.

Relief for the Soul

The IEB is launching two new books during the holy month of Ramadhan. These are:

Manifestations of the All-Merciful: This publication offers an in-depth review of the famous supplication read in the holy month of Ramadhan. This prayer is a passionate appeal for the betterment of not only ourselves and our affairs, rather, it is a plea to Allah (SWT) for the entire Muslim Ummah and for all humanity.



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 of Allah'? This book goes beyond providing logical analysis to these questions examining the spiritual dimensions of our lives.

The IEB recently launched two books from the 40 Hadith series, '**Lofty Status of Parents**' and '**Essence of Worship – Salat**'.

For further information on these books, email

ieb@world-federation.org



Eastern Europe

Programmes and gatherings for the month of Ramadhan were held in three towns in Bosnia, namely Sarajevo, Konjic and Mostar.

In Sarajevo, programmes were run for a total of 15 nights. The programmes included Namaz, Iftar, lectures and recitation of Duas for the holy month. An average of 50 families attended the program every night. Special programmes were organised with Sehri on the Laylatul Qadr nights. In addition, an Eid programme also took place. A special programme was organised for children, where they received gifts.



Konjic had programmes running for a total of 20 nights. The programmes included Namaz, Iftar, lectures and Duas, and were also attended by our Sunni brothers. Participation at the gatherings was high, with an average of 600 people per night.



In Mostar there were seven nights of gatherings, with a good turnout. The programmes consisted of Namaz, Iftar, lectures and Duas. These were organised and run by Br. Arman-Ali Berberac, who is a student from Qum. These programmes exemplify a critical way of undertaking external tableegh as well as providing Mumineen with Iftar during the holy month.

How to raise money?

The following are some effective ideas for raising Ramadhan Relief Funds:

Voucher scheme: Selling food vouchers for different amounts within the Jamaat.

Donation Leaflets: Distributing leaflets with a payment slip attached.

Sponsored fast for Madrasah children: Specially designed sponsorship forms to distribute to Madressas and Nurseries.

Stickers / Ribbons: To be sold by the volunteers.

T-Shirts / Wrist bands: To be sold by the volunteers.

To assist in raising funds within your Jamaat, and for further ideas on how money can be raised for this project, email secretariat@world-federation.org

To donate online, please visit

www.world-federation.org

The World Federation Finances – the ins and outs in brief

The total income for the first six months January to June 2005 was £2,337,987. This is a rise of 24% over the same period last year. This amount includes funds that have come in for various capital projects and other relief work including funds raised for Tsunami victims. The expenditure, including that on tableegh, ZCSC, medical, senior citizen, youth, women's issues, welfare, education, and support to regional federations, capital projects and relief work has likewise increased by 25%. The Secretariat expenditure is being kept tightly under control.

The Hon. Treasurer Azad Kanani said: "We are ensuring that the funds are being spent to deliver the objectives set out in the strategic plan and the manifesto of the President. This targeted approach on expenditure to deliver the commitments is making a difference in the number of projects that have been tackled. The continuous support from the grassroots is tremendously helpful to the World Federation in delivering the agenda set by the Triennial Conference of 2003 held in Dubai."

Fitra - the Zakaat on Eid

According to the Shariah, Fitra becomes incumbent when the new moon of Shawwal is sighted. "Whoever is adult and sane and is neither unconscious, nor poor, nor the slave of another, he should give, on his own behalf as well as on behalf of all those who are his dependents". For more information, refer to the Islamic Laws of your Marja.

The World Federation gives advance distribution of the Fitra zakaat. This year it has allocated £25,000 to the Muslims in need. For further information, email secretariat@world-federation.org



Alhaj Nisar Sheraly - Dedicated Educator & Leader

For the past 40 years, Alhaj Nisar Sheraly has served the community by teaching and propagating both secular and Islamic education. For the last year, he has working just as diligently as the Islamic Religious Education Coordinator of the World Federation's Islamic Education Board. His contributions to the community both in his philosophy of education and in the training and advice he has lent to madaris around the world, has gained him recognition as both an educator and a community leader.

In his work as an Islamic educator, Br. Nisar has reviewed the curriculum and practices of madaris and has conducted Teacher Training sessions in more than 25 cities across 5 continents. As an open-minded and courageous principal of both secular and Islamic schools, a cultural artist, and a journalist, he has gained a global perspective and hopes to generate an action plan to align our world-wide madaris with efficient resources and sharing of best practices.

Born in Zanzibar in 1942, Br. Nisar earned his first Bachelors degree in Literature at the University of Sierra Leone, which at the time was affiliated with the University of Durham, UK. Upon graduation, he worked with the East African Literature Bureau under the East African Community. In the early 1970's, Br. Nisar migrated to Toronto, Canada where he pursued his Bachelors and Masters Degree in Education at the University of Toronto. As he embarked upon a teaching career, Br. Nisar also became actively involved with the Toronto Jamaat's madrassah while it was still at its nascent stage. Furthermore, 15 years ago, Br. Nisar founded the Madrassah Teachers Training Institute in order to train the madrassah graduates to become teachers using interactive and state-of-the-art techniques.

As a life-long learner, Br. Nisar embarked to expand his educational horizons by training to become a school principal, and his first post was as the principal of a high school in Toronto. Leveraging this experience, he then headed the As-Sadiq Islamic school, of which he was one of the visionary founders. Under his tenure, the As-Sadiq School achieved academic results above the provincial

average. Br. Nisar's tenure at the school personified his motto to embrace and uphold "superlative education with an Islamic perspective."

Besides his services in the field of education, Br. Nisar was also well-known in his earlier career as a photographer with a keen eye. Over the years, Br. Nisar has expanded his interest in the use of media by educating others of the subtle and usages of media and the use of pictures as educational tools. This path has consequently led him to write illustrated children's stories and produce children's television programs.

Recognizing his integral role as a Muslim minority, Br. Nisar has participated in race-relations and multi-cultural activities in the Ontario region. His active involvement in this field resulted in his appointment by the Premier of Ontario to the Advisory Council

of Multiculturalism and Citizenship.

For his contributions, the Province honoured Br. Nisar with the Canada Day Achievement Award. Additionally, in 2002, the World Federation awarded Br. Nisar the coveted Mullah Asghar Memorial Award for Excellence in education.

Br. Nisar lives in Toronto with his wife Sister Sultana and sons Br. Munsif, Br. Alireza, and Br. Muhammad Abbas. Through his philosophy for excellence, he continues to strive towards bringing the best that education can offer and he reminds us through his efforts that an educated community can withstand any social, economic, or natural calamity with dignity and innovation.

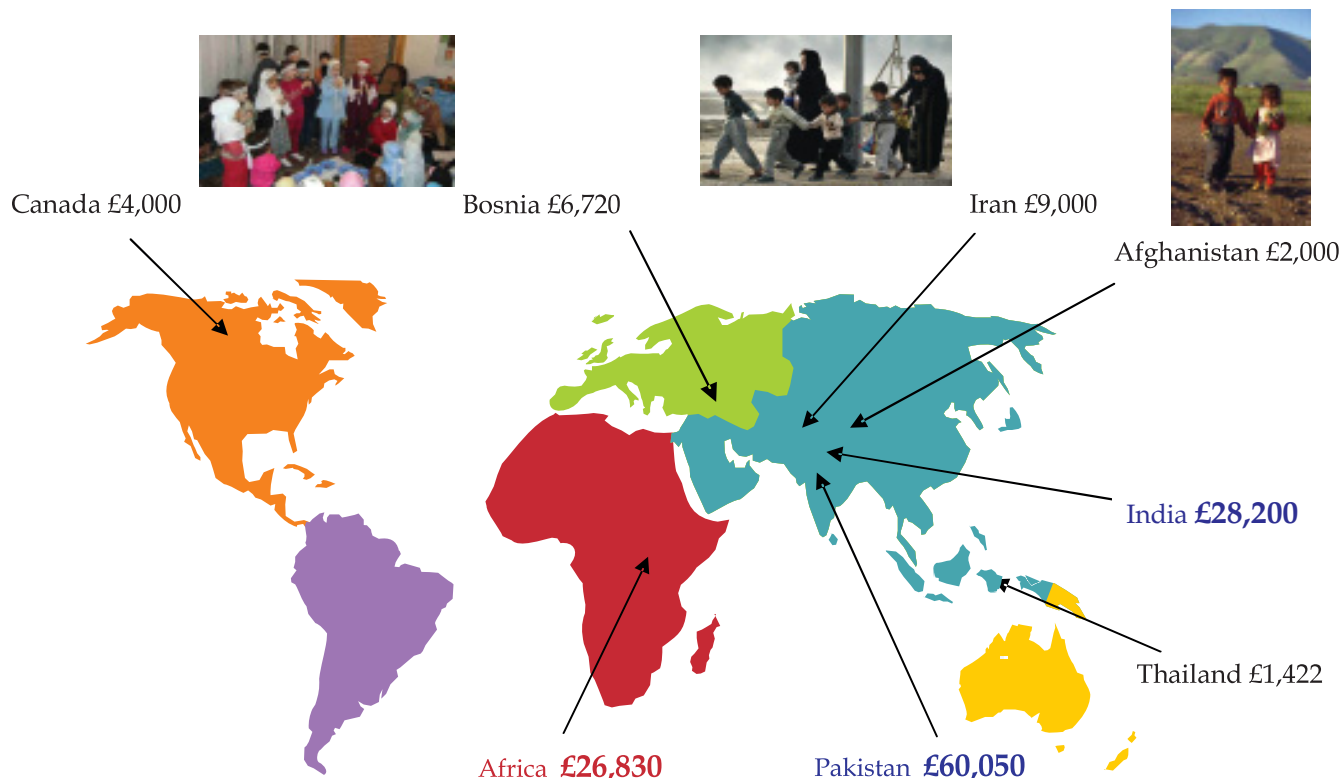
Standing for "Superlative Education with an Islamic Perspective"



Br. Alhaj Nisar Sheraly



How the Ramadhan Relief funds were spent last year in 2004/1425 AH



Over £6,000 was distributed to the Ulama worldwide

Ramadhan Relief - In brief

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

Who is it given to? It is given to needy Muslims throughout the World.

How much do we need? We have allocated **£190,000** far above what was spent in 1424 and 1425 AH: £80,000 and £140,000 respectively.

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**

What difference can I make? You can give the gift of food 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? Please contact **secretariat@world-federation.org** for further information.

Your opportunity to make a difference

Name: _____

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Postcode: _____

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£ ☐ \$ ☐ _____ ☐

Currency form:

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Towards:

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