



INFOCUS

Ramadhan 1429 ■ Issue 5

A PUBLICATION OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF KSMC

Registered Charity in the UK, No. 282303

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Ramadhan Relief Appeal 1429

GIVING HOPE, ONE IFTAR AT A TIME



THE
WORLD
FEDERATION
OF KHOJA SHIA ITHNA-ASHERI MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

RAMADHAN RELIEF APPEAL 1429 / 2008

OUR AIM

To lend a hand to our brothers and sisters to make their lives a little easier during this month of Ramadhan.

OUR GOAL

To raise funds through the generosity of donors from our community so that together we can provide food rations, Iftaars, paying of debts and cash gifts to the needy.



THE WORLD FEDERATION

In partnership with:
The Africa Federation
CoEJ and NASIMCO

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

SURA AL-INSAN (76:7-11)

And they feed, for the love of God, the indigent, the orphan, and the captive:

(Saying), "We feed you for the sake of God alone: no reward do we desire from you, nor thanks.

We only fear a Day of distressful wrath from the side of our Lord."

But God will deliver them from the evil of that Day, and will shed over them a Light of Beauty and (blissful) Joy.



MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

"God made fasting incumbent to make equity between the rich and the poor. A rich man does not feel the pains of hunger to have mercy for the poor since he is able to obtain whatever he likes. (By enjoining fasting), God wanted to put His creatures on an equal footing by making the rich taste the pain of hunger, so that he may have sympathy for and mercy on the hungry ..." (6th Imam, as)

Bismihī Ta'ala

Dear Community Members,

Assalamun Alaykum. Today, 862 million people worldwide are hungry. Every day, about 25,000 people die from hunger related causes; this equals one person every 3.5 seconds. Simply put, hunger is the most acute form of poverty where people cannot afford the most basic need for food. They live in extreme poverty. This data includes our Shia brothers and sisters who are very deserving in many parts of the world.

The World Federation is launching the *Ramadhan Relief Appeal*. As thousands of our needy Shia brethren fast, let us assist them by making their lives a little bit better.

In Shabaan funds are sent to our partnering agencies who organize food parcels, Iftaars, paying of debts and cash gifts for the needy. This work is done ahead of time in anticipation of the generosity and support of you, our donors. With your help, we can work together to raise funds to aid the most deprived, in particular the orphans, seniors, widows and the disabled who cannot provide for themselves. These individuals often have no one else to turn to and no welfare programmes that can give them support. Your donation will allow them to fast without the worry of searching for Iftaar, reducing the pangs of hunger and the pain of poverty.

This Ramadhan as we break our fasts, let us remember our fellow Shias in Tanzania and Syria, in India and in Pakistan, in Sri Lanka and in Myanmar and across the globe. This issue of INFOCUS features a snapshot of last year's activities we were able to achieve with your assistance, effort and generosity. We will also be placing information on our website, newswire and in your local Jamaat notice boards.

We pray to the Almighty to uplift the deserving Shia Mo'mineen worldwide and to bless all those who help them in this world and in the hereafter. Ameen.

With Salaams & Du'as

Shan-E-Abbas Hassam
Assistant Secretary General, Relief & Economic Development

A LITTLE CAN GO A LONG WAY



Could you exist on \$2 or less a day? Half the world does. This adds up to roughly 3 billion people. Just a cup of coffee alone costs \$2 in North America. *Can you imagine?*

The World Federation works with partnering agencies in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Myanmar, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tanzania and Thailand. In all these countries inflation, lack of social support, unemployment, rising debts and hopelessness only increase the sufferings of the most vulnerable.

The World Federation relies on donations to fund its vital work.

By giving to the Ramadhan Relief Fund, you are helping us to continue our work in ensuring that our Muslim brothers and sisters all over the world are helped in the month of Ramadhan.

Did you know that,

- \$8 USD in **Bosnia** can buy one meal for one family?
- \$2.80 USD in **Myanmar** can buy one meal for one family?
- \$2.50 USD in **South Africa** can provide one Iftaar?
- \$0.50 USD in **Tanzania** can provide one Iftaar?
- \$2 USD in **Thailand** can provide one Iftaar?

Last year, with your contributions, we were able to reach out to thousands including seniors, widows, orphans and the disabled. GBP £175,532 / USD \$359,800 was distributed across 15 countries.

Together, we are making an impact on world hunger in the Shia Muslim community. Let's not stop now.

RAMADHAN RELIEF 2007 ... THE LIVES WE TOUCHED, TOGETHER



THANK YOU, FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

RAMADHAN RELIEF 2007/1428. A LOOK BACK

Imam Amir-ul-Mu'mineen Ali (as) said:

"The Holy Prophet (s) narrated from God, the Exalted, on the night of ascent, Who said: 'O' Ahmad, My love is the loving of the poor. Bring the poor nearer to yourself and situate them close to yourself in order that I approach you..."



Our Heartfelt Thanks

This time last year, The World Federation appealed to Mo'mineen around the world to make a donation to its Ramadhan Relief Fund. We are thankful to our community members who give so generously to the deserving this time of year. In facing such a challenge of feeding the needy, your support has been invaluable. The reports that we received from our agencies across 15 countries after the Holy month of Ramdhan attest to the countless lives we helped collectively.

Following is an account of how your contributions were spent.

Thank you for *bringing the needy nearer to yourselves.*



BOSNIA



In **Bosnia**, Muslims comprise 62% of its population, out of which 1% is Shia (about 23,400). Through various tableegh initiatives, The World Federation has been active in meeting the religious and spiritual needs of the Shias here. In the past year alone, a variety of programs have been organised, housing projects have been developed, classes on akhlaq, fiqh and aqa'id have been offered, radio programs have been initiated and book publications have been distributed.

Last Ramadhan, The World Federation provided our brothers and sisters in Bosnia with food parcels to refugees in Srebrenica and its surrounding villages. Twelve people received financial aid ranging from GBP £20 to £150. Eight individuals were identified and received help in repaying their debts.

FOOD PARCEL DISTRIBUTED PER FAMILY	SREBRENICA & NEARBY VILLAGES
Flour	5 kg
Sugar	2 kg
Salt	1 kg
Cooking Oil	5 litres
Potatoes	10 kg

MYANMAR (BURMA)



On 3 May 2008, Cyclone Nargis, tore through the south-western coast of **Myanmar**, killing and displacing thousands and further devastating the already impoverished lives of our brothers and sisters there. Although The World Federation offered emergency aid during this critical time, our help is needed even more this Ramadhan.

Last Ramadhan, the aid package to Burma included food rations for 127 families.

Iftaar and Sehri were organised for 1,100

people. Seniors and 11 religious leaders received cash gifts for basic essentials. 142 Sadaats received aid so that their children could attend school and Madrasah. Widows were assisted in clearing their out-standing debts.

AID PACKAGE DISTRIBUTED PER FAMILY
Rice
Cooking Oil
Wheat Flour
Petty Cash

TANZANIA

Tanzania has made great progress in its quest to reduce poverty. Yet, its unemployment rate is a startling 67%. The World Federation works in partnership with The Africa Federation to serve our community in Africa. Concurrently, Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania works hand in hand with The Africa Federation to assist the most deserving here.



RAMADHAN AID	DAR ES SALAAM & ITS SUBURBS
4 Iftaars	80 Blind Students
2 Iftaars	150 Mute & Deaf persons
4 Iftaars	4 Orphanages
1 Iftaars	1,000 Orphans
Food Parcels	14 Regions, 7,000 families
Food Parcels	120 Blind Persons
Food Parcels	243 Disabled
3 Deep Wells	
10 Shallow Wells	

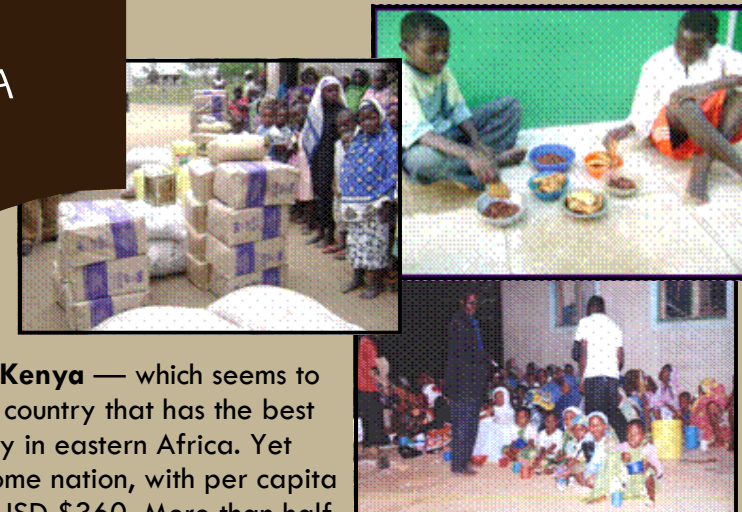
In Morogoro, food parcels were given to the prisons, boarding schools, vocational training centres and hospitals. 'Open Kitchen' Iftaar for the needy was a huge success again this year as community members helped prepare the meals. Duas and lectures were held daily.

Eid gifts brought smiles to the faces of orphans and other children. A special Eid day visit was made to the hospitals to give gifts to the sick.

In Moshi, over 400 people were provided with Iftaar for the entire month of Ramadhan. As in previous years, the Holy Quran recitation competition was held and winners were awarded small tokens. Dua programs and lectures on the Ahlul Bayt were held both in the city and in the villages.

KENYA

Over the past 30 years, poverty has been on the rise in **Kenya** — which seems to be a paradox in a country that has the best developed economy in eastern Africa. Yet Kenya is a low-income nation, with per capita income averaging USD \$360. More than half of the country's 31.3 million people are poor, and of these, 7.5 million live in extreme poverty. The Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya provides vital support to these deserving individuals and families.



TOTAL AMOUNT OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED	
Maize Meal	10,464 kg
Wheat Flour	7,000 kg
Sugar	4,300 kg
Cooking Oil (3L)	290 cans
Cooking Oil (20L)	104 drums
Dates	560 kg
Rice	2,367 kg
Tea Leaves	262 kg
Yeast	38 packets
Goats	452
Beans	4,050 kg

Last year, the Ramadhan Relief Program supplied Iftaar to over 23 Masjids in the rural areas where more than 1,200 families including 2,000 children benefited daily. Food parcels were distributed to 205 families residing in the cities and to 106 families living in the suburbs. Ration was also provided to 7 boarding secondary schools and inmates of the Shimo la Tewa Prison.

Six radio broadcast programs were held, where highly informative lectures on Tafseer of Suratul Qadr, Excellence of the Holy month, Dua and Bidding Farewell to Ramadhan were delivered. This presented a wonderful tableegh opportunity.

The Masjid in the rural Centers held programs which included Quran recitation, lectures on Sawm, Dua Ifitah, Dua Tawassul, Dua Kumay and Laylatul Qadr amaals. On Eid ul Fitr, meat was given to families and Eid gifts were presented to all Madrasah students and Muballighin.

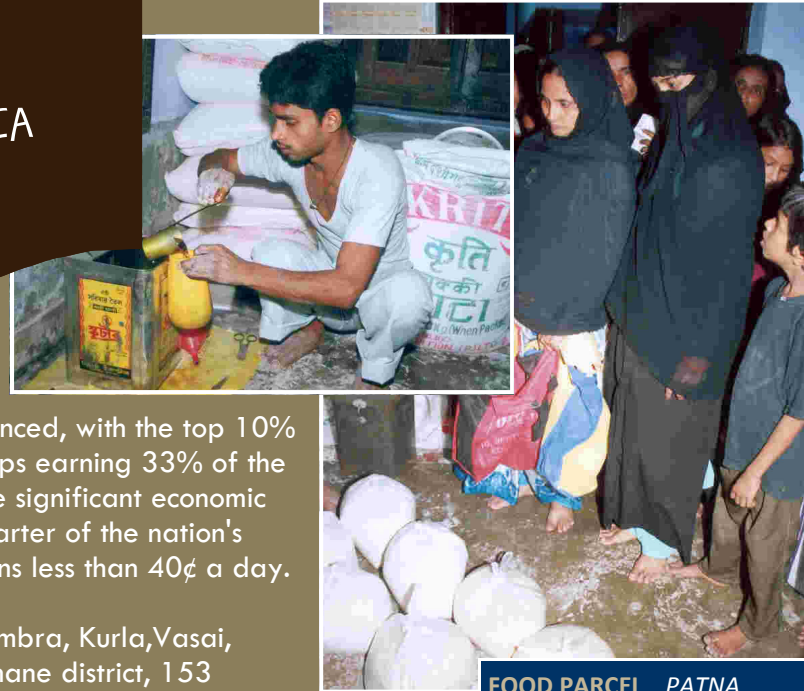
INDIA

Wealth distribution in **India** is unbalanced, with the top 10% of income groups earning 33% of the income. Despite significant economic progress, a quarter of the nation's population earns less than 40¢ a day.

In Mumbai, Mumbra, Kurla, Vasai, Palghar and Thane district, 153 non-Sadaat families received aid.

Over half of the population of Bihar is poor and living below the poverty line. They do not even have the means to afford the minimum basic needs of livelihood. In Patna and its neighbouring villages, food rations were distributed to our Shia families.

In August 2007, heavy rains overflowed dams and rose levels of local rivers in Gujarat. Nearly 2,000 families were affected, many who were already badly off. The Ramadhan Relief Fund supplied food parcels to those living in Khambhat, Vatwa and Ahemadabad. Since many of these families lost all their belongings to the floods, they were also given a cash gift to help pay for basic necessities.



FOOD PARCEL DISTRIBUTED PER FAMILY	PATNA & NEARBY VILLAGES
Rice	10 kg
Wheat	10 kg
Mustard Oil	1 kg
Gram	1 kg
Dal	1 kg
Sugar	1 kg
Tea Leaves	



PAKISTAN



Poverty in **Pakistan** is a growing concern. Although the middle-class has increased, nearly one-quarter of the population is classified as poor, many of whom are Shia.

From the Southern coastline to the northern tip, Pakistan is home to thousands of our own community members who face a range of hardships year round. The World Federation is grateful for the support from our partners in Pakistan including the Hyderabad, Karachi, Mehfil-e-Murtaza and Momin Jamaats.

Last year, relief was provided to Mo'mineen residing in Karachi, Interior Sindh, earthquake affected areas of Azad Kashmir and Mansehra, Chakwal (Punjab), Chiniot (Punjab), Jhang (Punjab) and Skardu (Northern Areas).

More than 1,000 non-sadat persons received food rations, Iftaar, and religious services including Ihtiikaaf. More than 500 Sayyid families across the country received financial aid. Special attention was given to support the Sayyid families living in the earthquake affected areas of Azad Kashmir and Mansehra.

A small portion of the Sadat amount was spent in assisting Sadat teachers who offer services in religious institutions.



SRI LANKA

*"The people who received the bountiful food packs were so thankful that they were unable to express their thanks, but wept, shedding tears of joy." This was the response from **Sri Lanka** last Ramadhan.*

In Sri Lanka, relief was given to 150 needy families across 14 towns where food parcels, Iftaars, new clothes and cash were gifted. Many individuals received aid to re-build homes that were damaged from floods. The level of the main road (which was under water due to the floods) in one of the villages was raised. Now people can go to work and children can walk to school easily.

A few families (especially widows) were assisted in carrying out home industry projects like making paper bags and preparing food items. Motors were given to women who had sewing machines to enable them to stitch garments at a quicker pace, Thereby increasing their income to a great extent.



SYRIA

"Every Muslim must fast—whether rich or poor. The rich choose and know what they will eat, and the poor have no choice in what they eat, if they eat." (comments from our Syrian partners)

Many Muslims in Homs (150 km from Damascus) live in poverty; here, 127 families were given food rations. 27 Shia families in Fua (350 km from Damascus), 5 in Damascus and 34 in Zainabiya (comprised of orphans and widows) also received rations.



In Rabwa, a special children's program was held each night. Iftaar was served to the needy and on Eid day, the children received special gifts.

FOOD PARCEL DISTRIBUTED PER FAMILY	DAMASCUS, HOMS & FUA
Rice	Ghee
Oil	Beans
Vermicelli	Wheat
Sugar	Tomato Paste
Tea	Macaroni
Peas	Halva

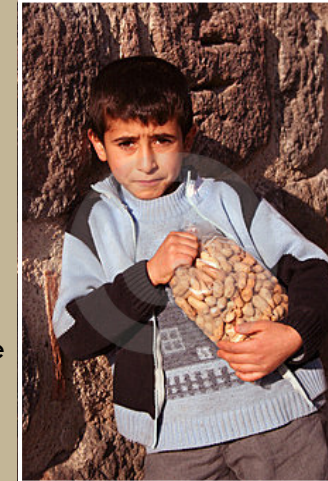
AFGHANISTAN

Life for the Shia Muslim in **Afghanistan** can be dismal. Designated as one of the world's poorest and least developed countries, two thirds of the people live on less than \$2 US a day. Living through war after war, drought and persecution because they belong to

the Shia faith, our brethren desperately need our support.

The World Federation supports two orphanages in Afghanistan in the cities of Herat and Bamyan. Recently, various faith-based groups have set up here to entice children, youth and orphans by wanting to fulfill their wants and needs and attempting to convert them from Shiaism.

Through the Ramadhan Relief Programme, we have been working in Afghanistan to provide them with food, accommodations, clothing and settlement of debts.



THAILAND

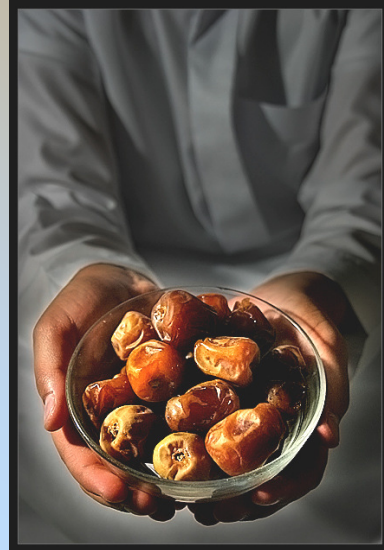
Poverty in **Thailand** is a problem due to the huge difference in income between the upper 30% and the rest of the population. Those belonging to the lower 30% are merely surviving while the upper 30% are enjoying the fruits of the country's development. Despite the fact that more and more Thai families are climbing out of the poverty pit, their earning capacity remains low.

The Ramadhan Relief Program covered each and every Shia community in Northern, Central and Southern parts of Thailand. 132 families were gifted with a cash donation to purchase food rations and other necessities for the month of Ramadhan.

In addition, four individuals suffering from paralysis, brain damage, kidney disease, and thyroid also received aid to help ease financial tensions during the Holy month.



THE IMPACT OF YOUR EFFORTS LAST RAMADHAN



*"O my God, we complain to You of the
absence of our Prophet - Your blessings be on
him and his family,
The concealment of our leader,
The abundance of our enemies,
The scarcity of our numbers..."*

Dua Iftitah

Last Ramadhan, Mo'mineen and Jamaats far and wide took action by volunteering to raise funds for Ramadhan Relief. By giving their time, effort and commitment they demonstrated the true spirit of leadership as taught to us by the Ahlul Bayt (as). The World Federation is deeply grateful to each individual, community and institution who helped make the struggles of the Holy month of Ramadhan that much easier for the destitute members of our global community.

STANMORE JAFFERY'S RAISE OVER £23,000 – LONDON, UK



Last Ramadhan, the Stanmore Jaffery's Youth group united to raise funds for Ramadhan Relief.

Supported by the S I Madressa and the KSIMC of London, they raised over £23,000 by creating awareness about the plight of the destitute and creating innovative ways for members to make a difference.

From dessert stalls and DVD sales, to cake auctions and sponsored Qur'an recitations, the Centre was bustling with activity.

VOLUNTEER TODAY! THE DESERVING NEED YOU.

*"When the month of Ramadhan
arrives, exert yourselves, for surely it is in
this month that livelihood is distributed,
the hour of death is ordained and the
arriving for Hajj is decreed. In it is a
night, deeds in which are better than deeds
in a thousand months." Imam Sadiq (as)*



Our Shia community continues to need your support.

The World Federation's most critical resource is its volunteers and today we need volunteers like you to join hands across the world to help us raise funds and awareness in your communities for the Ramadhan Relief Appeal. Without you, we simply cannot help the hungry and the deprived.

You can support this Fund by holding various fundraising events, for example. Whether you are an individual, a family, a youth group, a Jamaat, a Madrasah, or a school, your support will alleviate the pains of thousands this Ramadhan, especially the orphans, seniors, widows and the disabled.

The World Federation will provide you with a Volunteer Pack containing all the information and resources you will need to raise funds .

To join our Team or for more information,
email relief@world-federation.org

Lives are counting on you!



YOUR DONATION RELIEVES SUFFERING

DONATION / PLEDGE CARD

DONOR NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ PROVINCE: _____
POSTAL /ZIP CODE: _____
TELEPHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

GIFT / PLEDGE AMOUNT: _____

CURRENCY:
☐GBP ☐USD ☐CAD ☐Other_____

METHOD OF PAYMENT:
☐CASH ☐CHEQUE ☐ONLINE ☐VISA
Cardholder's Name:
Card Number:
Expiry Date:

GIFT AID: I am a UK taxpayer. Please reclaim tax I pay to Inland Revenue.
Sign: _____ Date: _____



THE WORLD FEDERATION
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UK, HA7 4LQ

DONATE ONLINE SAFELY
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www.coej.org
www.nasimco.org
relief@world-federation.org



- DID YOU KNOW:
- You can provide an Iftaar to one person in Tanzania for as little as 52p or \$1.04?
 - You can help a family in India buy a loaf of bread for only 22p or 44¢?
 - You can gift a new pair of shoes to an orphan child in Morogoro for only £4.50 or \$9?
 - You can stock a an empty cupboard in Sri Lanka with one full day's staple ration for as little as £1.33 or \$2.66?

A SMALL DONATION
CAN HAVE A
HUGE IMPACT