

IN FOCUS



THE

WORLD

FEDERATION

OF KHOJA SHIA ITHNA ASHERI MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

Ramadhan 1428 / September 2007 - Issue 4

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



'A Time to Give Hope'

Ramadhan Relief Appeal 1428

Registered Charity in the UK No. 282303

www.world-federation.org

RAMADHAN RELIEF APPEAL – 1428/2007

WITHOUT YOUR HELP, IT CAN'T BE DONE

A Time to Give Hope

THE MISSION

To help and assist our brothers and sisters in the global Muslim community against undue suffering at least during the Holy Month of Ramadhan

THE AIM

To raise and distribute
USD 380,000/ GBP 190,000
through the generosity of
the readers.



THE WORLD FEDERATION

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

The best gifts come straight from the heart. As you read this newsletter, others are worried about how they will survive during the month of Ramadhan. With little or no income, the pangs of hunger will be a little bit more unbearable as families fast in this Holy month. Cupboards will remain bare, food will be scarce, and debts will continue to rise.

Your financial support for this year's Ramadhan Relief Program will help maintain an irreplaceable lifeline for so many of our brothers and sisters worldwide.

Over the past few months, The World Federation has worked hard to identify those regions in the world where aid from the Ramadhan Relief Program can make the month of Ramadhan a little more pleasant with less financial and material worries for the Muslims who are poor, orphans or widows.

Working in collaboration with our team of devoted volunteers across four continents, The World Federation has already made provisions to ensure that the deserving receive essential food provisions, warm bedding and shelter and other crucial aid this Ramadhan. Your help is the critical ingredient in the success of the Ramadhan Relief Program ...**without your help, it can't be done.**

Year after year, with the generosity of good friends like you, this program is able to brighten the lives of thousands of Muslims - reaching over 300 towns and cities in 18 countries worldwide.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

The blessed month of Ramadhan has graced us once again and whilst we are fortunate to break our fasts in the comfort of our homes with ample and adequate provisions, one cannot help but cast a glance around the world to see a stark difference.

With the arrival of the month of Ramadhan, I once again appeal to your generosity as we launch this year's Ramadhan Relief Fund – a Fund that reaches far and wide across the globe, spanning cities, countries, and continents to reach and assist the plight of the orphans, the elderly, the widows, the poor and the needy.

This issue of Infocus details the successful efforts of last year's Ramadhan Relief Fund, where Alhamdulillah, through your caring, compassion and support, we were able to provide food, water, shelter and essential medications to our struggling Muslims brothers and sisters in Africa, India, Afghanistan, through to Sri Lanka and Iran. There is so much more that still needs to be done. There are still so many people out there whose fasts will extend beyond sunset, as they have nothing with which to break their fast. We can make a difference, but only with your help and generosity.

This year, we intend to make special efforts to assist those in Iraq, a country ripped apart by war, where our brethren in faith are on the brink of destruction and destitution, and are calling upon us in their hour of need.

Inshallah, your aid will also reach areas of Africa engulfed in starvation and economic hardship.

Remember that each one of us is a vital thread in our fellow Muslim's tapestry. Our lives are woven together for a reason and it is not only our duty but our nature to ensure we do all we can to help.

On behalf of The World Federation, I look forward to the community's continuous support and urge all to donate generously. Let us enjoin in prayers to The Almighty to shower His blessings on our donors, to alleviate the hardships of the Muslim Ummah throughout the world in these difficult times and to hasten the reappearance of our saviour, Al Mahdi (AS). Ameen.

Dr. Ahmed Hassam, President



Your Gift Matters, See for Yourself

...the difference you made last
Ramadhan 1427 / 2006

The Ramadhan Relief Program is The World Federation's frontline initiative in the fight against poverty during the Holy month of Ramadhan.

Muslims in countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Burma, Canada, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand and Uganda have benefited each year from your generosity.

Thanks to your ongoing support, The World Federation has been able to alleviate hardships faced by some of our brothers and sisters living in these countries, by providing them with Iftaar, essential warm bedding, food provisions, cash for the destitute, financial aid to help clear debts and other means to ensure their wellbeing in Ramadhan.

Last year, The World Federation disbursed over USD 350,000 / GBP 185,000 in Ramadhan Relief funds across the globe. Jamaats, youth groups and individual philanthropists



from all over the world came together to make appeals on behalf of this Program, to organize various fundraisers and to donate funds to this special cause.

On behalf of all the beneficiaries of this Program around the world, who worshiped in peace, ate sufficiently and slept with ease because of your generosity, *Please accept our heartfelt gratitude.*

TANZANIA

Africa holds a special place and the Ramadhan Relief Program has enjoyed wonderful achievements here. Last year, The World Federation once again teamed up with other organizations to ensure peace of mind for our deserving brothers, sisters and children in Tanzania.

WIPAHS organized various programs during the Holy month of Ramadhan, benefiting the poor, the blind, the deaf and the disabled. Over 15 Iftaar programs were arranged; a special Iftaar was organized on the 21st Ramadhan where nearly 1000 orphans from all over Dar-es-Salaam attended. In another program, about 1,000 resident students and staff of 3 educational institutes benefited from daily Iftaar and Sehri.

Over 8,200 food packets were distributed throughout Dar es Salaam and its suburbs – covering 19 different areas. The smile on the faces of these families was priceless as they received 2kg of beans, 2kg of maize flour, 1kg of sugar, 1kg of salt and 1kg of rice.

Similar to the previous year, the Dar ul Muslimeen Orphanage held an “open-kitchen” where any deprived person was served Iftaar.

Spotlight



The Chairman of the Disabled Association of Temeke thanks WIPAHS for their continued support.

Aid was provided to 80 members of the Disabled Association of Temeke of Dar-es-Salaam where a total of 120 members suffer from different disabilities.



The joy of having food to eat



KENYA

“Harambee”, a Swahili word for ‘Let us All Pull Together’, is Kenya’s official motto – and this is just what the Ramadhan Relief Program is all about. Donors really pulled together last year to come to the aid of Muslims in Kenya. Food parcels were supplied to 171 families residing in the urban locales and to 347 families living in the rural regions. Food ration was also provided to 5 boarding secondary schools and inmates of the Shimo la Tewa Prison.

Iftaar was provided for 23 mosques in the rural districts. The daily average number of persons who participated was 3,369 including women and children. A special Iftaar was held at a mosque where more than 1,000 families including 1,700 children benefited.

An Iftaar program at a rural mosque



The total food distribution in Kenya last year, contained 10,800kg maize meal, 1,500kg dates, 7,272kg wheat flour, 2,350 kg rice, 11,160kg maize seeds, 7,020kg beans, 5,250kg sugar, 2,800 litres of cooking oil, and over 730 slaughter animals.

SOUTH AFRICA

Last Ramadhan, your kindness reached the southern most tip of Africa, where it was reported as “one of the best Ramadhans yet”. Over 20kg food parcels were distributed to deserving individuals and families in Dayton, Cape Town and Soweto. Iftaar and special aid was provided for the Muslims facing hardships there.



Relieving the pangs of hunger by providing food



INDIA

As part of The World Federation's Ramadhan Relief Program, funds were distributed to brothers and sisters in Mumbai through the KSI Medical Aid and Welfare Society. A total of GBP 24,000 was distributed here. 1,875 of the most deprived families were gifted food parcels containing wheat, oil, tea and vermicelli.

In Hyderabad, your generosity afforded us the opportunity to distribute food grain packages, consisting of 10kg rice, 2kg cooking oil, 2kg sugar, 1kg channa daal, 5kg wheat, tea powder, 1kg dates and 1kg salt. Cash contributions were provided to deserving families, based on a needs-assessment, determined by various factors such as income, age, family structure and disability. Clothes were presented to orphans and deprived young boys and girls. Financial assistance for Iftaar was given to 18 mosques and centers, and aid was extended to nearly 15 religious leaders.

"Giving aid to the poor is an emblem of Islam and the tradition of the Holy Prophet (SAW). With the blessings of God and your generous support we were able to bring relief to nearly 2,581 beneficiaries which made their Ramadhan days brighter than ever."
(Hyderabad, India)

PAKISTAN

The aid package to Pakistan included relief funds amounting to GBP 51,930. The main focus of the relief efforts remained in the earthquake affected regions, including Kashmir and Kaghan. However other areas such as Baltistan and Mansehra also benefited from the relief packages. This was provided in various forms, including financial contributions, food rations, medical treatment and clearance of debts.

Relief funds were also distributed to other deserving Muslims, even those living in the remotest regions of Pakistan during the Holy month.

SRI LANKA

“Ramadhan is a month of giving, but the giving carried out by the donors of the Ramadhan Relief Program is beyond measure” (Az-Zahraa Association of Sri Lanka).

The above response was from the Az-Zahraa Association of Sri Lanka when they received GBP 10,500 to aid their poor, orphans and widows last Ramadhan. They reported that “every individual who came to collect their food packs would raise their hands to God and recited a Dua for all those who were instrumental in helping them to receive these bountiful packs.” This is the radiance of The World Federation’s Ramadhan Relief Program.

Ramadhan Relief packs which included dry rations and essential items were distributed to more than 150 needy Muslim families. Other beneficiaries received clothes, bicycles, and fundamentals for household repairs.

“Doing each of the following deeds will take you to Heaven: Giving water to a thirsty person, feeding a hungry person, providing clothing for one who does not have any clothes or freeing a slave.”

(Imam Sadiq, AS)

IRAN

Last year, a total of GBP 6,000 of the Ramadhan Relief funds was distributed to over 867 hawza students at the Alawy Dar al-Quran Centre, in Qum. This centre, under the supervision of Sayyid Masoud Razavi, teaches Quran to foreign students studying in Qum. The running of this centre depends on donations and fees. Here, Ramadhan Relief funds were used for fees and essential provisions for the deserving students living there.

A further GBP 2,000 was remitted to Ayatullah Sayyid Muhammad Baqir Shirazi for distribution to the Muslims in need.



THAILAND

Last year, the Ramadhan Relief funds enabled the Zainabiyah Educational Support Center in Thailand to extend a helping hand to some of the deprived Muslims in the country.

A total of GBP 2,875 was distributed to over 167 deserving families in Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, Maesod, Pattalung, Sritammarat and Trang.

A special financial package was provided to the mortally sick women in the area. A mother voiced the following, "I am grateful to the mercy of God who grants this kind of project to our community in order to relieve the needy like us. I pray that this project will be maintained in our community consistently."

BOSNIA

In Bosnia, the Relief funds were instrumental in assisting our brothers and sisters in Sarejevo and its surrounding areas, such as Ligatici and Mostar. Apart from humanitarian assistance to 15 families, 15 minute radio broadcasts were relayed on 2 stations which provided enlightening lectures in the towns of Mostar and Visoko.

Your support to this cause has enabled the Muslim community in Bosnia, to express a heartfelt prayer, "May God reward here and the hereafter all those who generously contributed and helped, so that the words of Ahlulbait (AS) can be heard here in Bosnia."



The satisfaction of bringing pleasure to the lives of many young children in distant lands



The collection efforts of last Ramadhan Relief..

Volunteers from all around the world, both young and old, took action for the sake of God. They were involved in the tireless fundraising for the Ramadhan Relief Program. Apart from the eternal reward that they would receive, they had the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts went a long way to bring joy in the lives of many thousands of Muslims around the globe.

Just to highlight only two of many volunteer activities carried out in last year's Ramadhan Relief fundraising:

JAFFERY YOUTH (LONDON, UK)

"London's Stanmore Jafferys youth organisation took on the challenge of Ramadhan Relief fundraising. From desert stalls and DVD sales, to cake auctions and sponsored Quran recitations, the centre was bustling with enthusiasm during the activities. A grand total of GBP £9,500 was raised."

AL HUSSAIN SOCIETY (LONDON, UK)

"The Al-Hussain Society at London Metropolitans University volunteered to raise money within the university campus by organising a food stall, as well as offering henna painting for students. There was quite a demand for Middle Eastern sweets and hence they were up for grabs as most students love to try new things."

Volunteer With Us

...The reward of helping others is beyond this world!

Volunteers are the backbone of our communities across the world and The World Federation's very foundation is built on this critical resource.

Only with your dedication and hard work will the funds for this year's Ramadhan Relief Program be raised

When you give your time for this Program, you make a considerable difference in the lives of thousands of people who are poor, orphans or widows. Moreover...the reward of helping others is beyond this world!

Volunteering for the Ramadhan Relief Program is an exceptional opportunity for you to serve God in a month dedicated to Him for charity and forgiveness.

To join our team or find out more information, you can contact us by email relief@world-federation.org

Be part of the change.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

Be an annual sponsor

You can be our regular supporter by providing annual contribution to this great cause.

Make a single donation

You can make your invaluable donations by cheque, postal order, or by credit or debit card. You can also safely donate online on our website.

Give your time

Your voluntary assistance is the basic ingredient for the delivery of this humble Program. Please be part of this cause.

Email and tell us how you have chosen to make a difference, on relief@world-federation.org



Donation Form

"A generous person is one who spends his wealth in the way of God."

(Imam Baqir AS)

Yes, I want to Help

I want to pay by cheque / postal order or credit /debit card.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

GIFT AID: I am a UK tax payer. Please reclaim tax I pay to Inland Revenue.

Sign: _____ Date: _____

Donate online safely

www.world-federation.org



The World Federation

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

Your contribution goes a long way in providing the basic necessities to the Muslim Communities across the globe in their hour of need

HOW WAS RAMADHAN RELIEF SPENT LAST YEAR?

Afghanistan £7,500

Africa £42,250

Bosnia £4,500

Burma £2,020

India £46,080

Iran £8,000

Pakistan £51,930

Sri Lanka £10,500

Syria £2,500

Thailand £2,875

£8,400 Ulama worldwide

RAMADHAN RELIEF – IN BRIEF

What is Ramadhan Relief? It is a gift given to Muslims around the world who are facing hardships to make the month of Ramadhan a little more pleasant with less financial and material worries for them.

Who is it given to? It is given to deprived Muslims who are poor, orphans or widows throughout the world.

How much do we need? This year we need to raise and distribute over USD 380,000 / GBP 190,000 through the generosity of the readers.

Why should I help? “A generous person is one who spends his wealth in the way of God.” (Imam Baqir AS)

What difference can I make? Without your support, the pangs of hunger will be a little bit more unbearable as families fast in this Holy month.



BRING A SMILE TO A FACE!



THE WORLD FEDERATION
www.world-federation.org
relief@world-federation.org