



Relief Work and Capital Projects

Report for the Term
2003 – 2006

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THE
WORLD
FEDERATION

OF KHOJA SHIA ITHNA-ASHERI MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

Registered charity in the UK No. 282303



1 INTRODUCTION

This document will outline the relief operations undertaken during the term 2003 – 2006; in response to both natural and man-made disasters. The World Federation is able to respond quickly because generous donations are sent in by community members even before an appeal is made and we have a network of Jamaats and Organisations locally world wide who are able to mount relief efforts effectively and cheaply by sourcing local goods. Unlike other relief agencies, The World Federation does not need to send expertise from outside the region, thus keeping costs to a minimum.

2 RELIEF AND AID OPERATIONS

2.1 Background to Relief Operations

This term has seen a large number of humanitarian disasters (both man-made and natural events), leading to major loss of life, many people being displaced and many individuals struggling to meet their basic daily needs. The World Federation has responded to emergencies all around the globe; whilst individual Boards and Desks have worked alongside the Secretariat to co-ordinate 'planned' relief operations to meet specific needs.

2.2 Ali-Asghar (a.s) Water Appeal (2004)

This appeal raised funds to dig water wells and boreholes to ensure a supply of clean drinking water for all. Overall, 18 youth bodies around the globe were involved in this appeal; collecting funds during the holy month of Ramadhan.

- 2.2.1 In total over £45,000 was raised – which meant we could make an impact in Bihar, Karnataka and Gujarat (in India) and in Tanzania and Burma. This project empowered the youth, and created inter-community networks at the youth level, and was an outstanding success.

2.3 Bam Earthquake Appeal (2003)

After a devastating earthquake in the historic densely populated city in Iran, the World Federation opened this appeal to help alleviate the intense suffering of the survivors. After a visit from a delegation of our communities members made up of members of NASIMCO, Dubai Jamaat and the World Federation; the proposed three-stage action plan was quickly put into action.

- 2.3.1 The community raised funds for the construction of 14 large steel structures to serve as Imambaras where Muharram programs could be held only weeks after the earthquake, and the World Federation has continued its support to the city; with a visit from the President, Councillor Mohsin Kanji and Jaffer Dharamsi in 2004



and 2005 respectively. In addition, a modern building was constructed to permanently hold one of the destroyed Howzas. Overall, roughly £400,000 was raised and used in Bam.

2.4 Madagascar Cyclone (2004)

This tropical cyclone hit the island only a month after the previous cyclone (Elita) had struck the coast. Almost 774,000 people were affected, and the President of the World Federation restated his commitment to the people of Madagascar at the 1st Executive Council Meeting in Brampton in March 2004; and stated that he would ensure a delegation would visit the affected area. The community donated USD 100,000 to the people of Madagascar to aid the disaster recovery effort.

2.5 Angola Drought Appeal (2003)

Across most of southern central Africa, twelve million people faced starvation after a bad harvest and the resulting lack of food. The World Federation was able to help those in desperate need by sending funds to distribute staple foods.

2.6 Kadhmain (Iraq) Bridge Disaster (2005)

During a procession to commemorate the martyrdom of our Imam Musa al Kadhim, a stampede on a bridge leading to the shrine killed hundreds of the Azaadar. The local community was severely affected, with many families losing their sole breadwinners. The community sent an initial sum of £10,000 for immediate relief assistance, and we have showed our continued support to the people of Iraq with numerous other projects.

2.7 Iraq Relief Orphan Appeal (2005)

The Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme highlighted the need to sponsor Shia orphans in Baghdad's Sadr City suburb, and launched an appeal alongside the Secretariat and Youth Network Desk to raise the funds. In total, more than £70,000 was raised – meeting the initial target of sponsoring 300 orphans for one year. Another 300 orphans are being sponsored by the ZCSS on a permanent basis.

- 2.7.1** This project saw responses from New Jersey (USA); Melbourne (Australia) and ShiaChat.com (an online forum); with the highly motivated youth running an 8-hour tube and rail station collection on the 5th March 2005 in London (UK).

2.8 Asian Tsunami Appeal (2005)

Following this disaster of an unprecedented scale which affected countries as far apart as Indonesia and Somalia, the World Federation launched this appeal to help alleviate the suffering of the people. The World Federation identified 6 phases in the global



relief effort and decided to support the victims to quickly start earning their livelihood.

2.8.1 With the generous donations from Mumineen, the World Federation in the end spent USD 200,000 in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Fishermen were assisted to repair their boats, buy fishing nets and baskets and restock with fish in the fisheries in India and Thailand. In Sri Lanka labourers were given bicycles, while widows were assisted with sewing machines and cooking utensils for cottage industries. In India ground nut farmers were assisted with seeds and small sea side businesses were helped to restart. In India and Indonesia, students were assisted to continue with their studies.

2.8.2 After visits from delegations to the affected areas in the immediate aftermath and our relief efforts, the fund was closed at the Executive Council Meeting in March 2005. In June 2005, the President visited Thailand to see the impact of the community's donations and also to hand over the last of the remaining funds for this appeal.

2.9 **Darfur Aid Appeal (2004)**

After clashes between the government and a local militia, more than 1,000,000 were forced to flee their homes; and left 10,000 dead. Many of the displaced came to the already overcrowded refugee camps, meaning that starvation would be a dire problem. The World Federation was able to assist in a small way.

2.10 **Bangladesh Floods Appeal (2005)**

Bangladesh suffers from regular flooding. This time, the World Federation sent £2,400 to help 248 families.

2.11 **Kutch / Gujarat Earthquake Appeal (2001)**

This devastating natural disaster struck in 2001, and during this term, The World Federation completed the housing of all those affected; as well as aiding all those whose businesses were destroyed earn a living again. All affected Mosques and Imambaras have also been rebuilt or repaired.

2.11.1 In contrast to other communities in the area, our community is now fully back on its feet, with USD1,000,000 made available to the Jamaats as a foundation fund; so they are self-reliant and do not need external help again.

2.12 **Afghanistan Relief Orphan Fund (2004)**

The World Federation has helped local Ulama look after orphans especially their education. 78 orphans are being looked after. This project is now being monitored by ZCSS at a cost of £24,000 per annum.



2.13 Pakistan Earthquake Relief Fund (2005)

After the earthquake shook Kashmir, Pakistan and India; the community quickly responded by sending funds to the World Federation. The World Federation was able to provide emergency relief through the local Jamaats in the affected regions, whilst long-term assistance (the rebuilding of homes, schools, Mosques and Imambaras) is now moving into gear. The funds collected are being sent to Pakistan to keep pace with the reconstruction.

2.14 Ramadhan Relief Fund (2003 - 2005)

In our continuous efforts to improve the lives of our fellow Muslims around the world – the Ramadhan Relief Fund has helped those in desperate poverty during the Holy Month. The Youth Network Desk, through the direction of the Office Bearers, has mobilised the Youth in these annual campaigns to raise funds all around the world. Through this program, we have made the lives of our people in more than 300 villages around the world that little bit better; helping both Sadats and Non-Sadats in the process.

2.14.1 During the 2003 / 1424 campaign, more than £84,000 was raised through the Ramadhan Relief Fund to help the needy around the world, with another £20,000 donated via Fitra Funds – bringing the total raised during the Holy Month to more than £100,000.

2.14.2 In Ramadhan 2004 / 1425, the funds collected helped people in East Africa and in Asia – more than £34,000 was disbursed to East Africa alone. The total sum raised came to more than £160,000; with almost 40% of the money collected aiding Sadats.

2.14.3 During Ramadhan 2005 / 1426, almost £260,000 was donated (through Fitra and Ramadhan Relief); an increase of 62.5% on the previous campaign. Through the money raised, the World Federation was able to help many countries including Canada, India, Iraq, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand; as well as several countries in Africa.

2.15 Lebanon Relief Fund (2006)

After the war in Lebanon, in which most of the civilian infrastructure was destroyed and many hundreds of thousands of people were displaced, the Secretariat launched the Lebanon Relief Appeal. We have been able to provide relief through our local contacts with the Office of our Marja' Ayatullah Sistani, and we are working with them to provide services to all the refugees who have made it to Syria.

2.15.1 We have been able to provide them with free access to healthcare and prescription services, as well as renting accommodation for the refugees. In addition, we will look to aiding the people of Lebanon, especially the Shia of the south of the country, to rebuild their shattered lives. This will be a mammoth task, and will require all of us to assist them for many months and years to come.



3 CAPITAL PROJECTS

At the last Triennial Conference (Dubai, 2003); a draft working paper was submitted outlining an assessment of the status of the capital projects undertaken by our community around the world. This document recommended the formation of a Capital Projects Working Group, which reported back to the Executive Council at their 2nd Meeting in Leeds in September 2004.

- 3.1 After discussion of the recommendations of the Capital Projects Working Committee at Executive Council level, and after input from the Regional Federations, Jamaats and Individuals; the proposed Processes and Procedures for Funding Capital Projects was adopted in the 4th Executive Council Meeting in Dar es Salaam in February 2006.
- 3.2 This document outlined an organisational structure from the World Federation, through Regional Federations and individual Jamaats to help individual communities finance their projects effectively; as well as providing a template for Jamaats to follow in their Capital Projects Programs. Further details are available on the website.
- 3.3 Leicester Jamaat's project of the new Al Husaini Mosque is the first project where the agreed template is being utilised to great success.
- 3.4 During this term, 12 Capital Projects of the community were assisted by the World Federation in:
 - Allentown (USA)
 - Aden (Yemen)
 - Bangkok (Thailand)
 - Brampton (Canada)
 - Leeds (UK)
 - Leicester (UK)
 - Paris (France)
 - Minnesota (USA)
 - New York (USA)
 - Toronto (Canada)
 - Watford (UK)
 - Vancouver (Canada)