



INFOCUS

Dhul Qa'dah 1429 / November 2008 ■ Issue 6

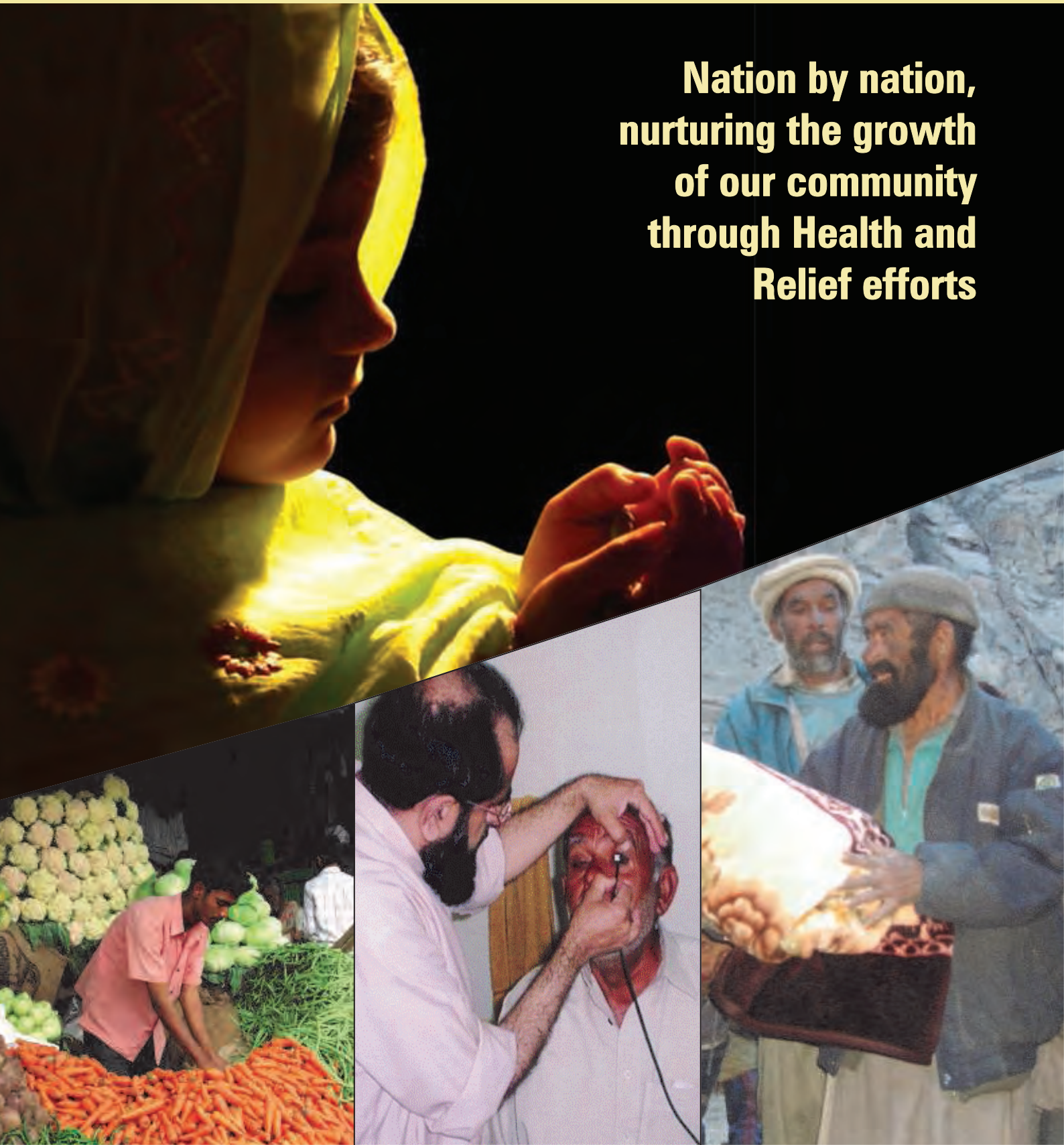
A PUBLICATION OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF KSIMC

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The World Federation is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

**Nation by nation,
nurturing the growth
of our community
through Health and
Relief efforts**





Health Message to the Community

**"Remember Me in bounties and in good health,
I will remember you in difficulties and loneliness."**

(al-Hadith al-Qudsi)

Public health is a major concern in all third world countries. Several people suffer from illnesses and ailments that would otherwise be preventable if correct provisions are taken by individuals. The key to improving health among our Shias in places such as India and Pakistan is looking at the cause, rather than just treating the symptoms.

The World Federation is committed to educating people about basic healthcare and disease prevention. Simply treating the disease or the symptom only gives a temporary solution to the constant health issues our brothers and sisters face. However, providing preventative education and knowledge to people will teach them how to live healthier, longer lives. Even basic things like proper diet, hygiene and immunisations can make a difference in an individual's health.

The World Federation has currently established four Zainabiya Health Centres and Aeinullah Eye clinics in India and Pakistan. The clinics provide basic medical care, eye exams and eye surgeries to those who are suffering from the loss of eyesight and do not have the means to receive treatment. About 90% of the world's blind live in developing countries like India. However, if significant efforts are made in this direction, then about 70% of those who are blind will regain their eyesight.

The Zainabiya Health Centres provide basic health care as well as health education and awareness to teach preventative measures, immunisations, family planning and maternity care. This care is provided to hundreds of our fellow Shia brothers and sisters which would otherwise would be inaccessible.

The Autistic Day Care Centre in Dar-es-Salaam was established in 2006. The first of its kind in the whole of East Africa, this Centre provides innovative and

structured support for children with autism and other disabling and chronic conditions. The Centre offers state of the art strategies for children with autism using visual structure and organisation as well as counselling for families. In addition, the Centre creates autism awareness in the society in order to allow the children to be able to lead more normal lives.

The World Federation hopes to continue creating awareness and educate people all over the world in regards to health and wellness. With your support, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of so many individuals who are counting on us today.

Dr. Munir M Datoo

Assistant Secretary General for Health





Relief & Economic Development - Message to the Community

“Remember Me by being kind towards the poor, I will remember you in Heaven, the place to be resorted to.”

(al-Hadith al-Qudsi)

Poverty – a word we hear so often but don't always fully comprehend or relate to. We catch glimpses of it on the news or in a magazine, but fail to grasp the extreme conditions of desperation so many people face each day. And for those who live in these circumstances daily, often feel that there is no way out. Poverty does not discriminate, and is affecting not only the young and adults, but our seniors as well. But with support and encouragement, there is the possibility of improving the lives of so many of our Shia brothers and sisters in need all over the world.

The solution is not just simply cash, food and clothing donations, but working with people to encourage them to move away from welfare and handouts and towards income generation. Although welfare may work for our seniors, disabled, orphans and widows, there is still a large pool of deserving capable individuals who are eager and able to alleviate their own poverty, but lack the capital to get them started. This is why it is so imperative that we assist these people by giving them the capital they so desperately need.

The key to a long term, sustainable way out of the poverty cycle is by educating and building the capacity of the individual. Equipping people with the skills and understanding the need to become self-sufficient will allow the deserving to be able to provide for themselves and their families through a steady means of income. In the interim, assisting with small loans to individuals who are in need of financing to begin a business is a terrific starting point.

The World Federation has worked with various NGOs and Institutions to learn how to manage such micro - financing successfully. This endeavour can be an enormous success if it is managed correctly and if there is clear accountability set in place, and The

World Federation has put such a process into action. These efforts are having a positive effect on many of our Shias, and there are many success stories to tell. However, we must continue to work together as a community to make this project an even larger success.

Let us not forget so many of our seniors who live in developing countries and struggle for even the basic living essentials. It is our responsibility as fellow Shias to come to the aid of these aged and frail elderly who face such extreme circumstances that they are forced to sleep hungry night after night with hardly any food in their stomachs, and dealing with several illnesses or ailments. Let us think of every senior as one of our parents or grandparents, without whom we would not have the values and morals that we have instilled in us today. We must not allow these brave yet helpless individuals to continue to live in the cycle of poverty that they live in today.

The next time you sit down to eat a meal, or head off to work, please take the time to think of how you can make a difference in changing someone's life for the better – by working together, we can definitely help alleviate some of the poverty that so many people face in the world today.

InshAllah, the Almighty will give us the strength and the capability to continue to assist those in need, and will accept what has been accomplished so far.

Ameen.

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

Launch of The World Federation Economic Development Programme



One of the key goals of The World Federation is to economically uplift our destitute Shia brethren living in developing nations. Although gifting cash, food, or clothing to help meet short term needs is vital, it offers little by way of a solution to escaping the clutches of poverty. Without an income, these individuals do not have the security to provide for themselves or their families.

There are many who are eager and determined to improve their dismal economic situations. Whilst some of these individuals would like to establish a business, the lack of capital is the barrier that hinders their prospect for a better life.

In light of this dilemma, The World Federation introduced the *Economic Development Programme*. This programme aims to economically uplift our Shias by providing them with capital investments needed to create a stable and steady income.

In addition, this programme encourages individuals and families to save a part of their income, allowing them to build up their own assets and become financially independent.

WHAT IS THE WORLD FEDERATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (WFEDP)?

The WFEDP is an initiative built on the concept of microcredit where small scale or zero percent loans are given to form small scale enterprises with the aim of economically uplifting the individual.

Currently, it is extremely difficult for those living in poverty to borrow the capital required at a decent interest rate, simply because they do not have the collateral to qualify for a loan. The WFEDP offers a solution to those people who are disadvantaged and lack capital, but at the same time are capable of operating a small scale, self-employed enterprise. The provision of small loans with low or no interest allows the deserving to access the capital they need to begin earning. At present $\frac{3}{4}$ of all microfinance loans are given by NGOs and charitable institutions as a mode of drawing individuals out of poverty.

In addition to granting loans, this programme also focuses on providing relevant training and skills to allow individuals to continue creating a stable income on a long term basis. Training programmes will be developed and created and delivered based on their needs.

The loans given to the borrowers will be recycled, so that funds repaid by an individual will be used to fund another, resulting in a long term sustainable fund for economic upliftment from which multiple families and individuals can benefit.

WHO CAN QUALIFY?

The scheme has been developed to provide financial aid to those who

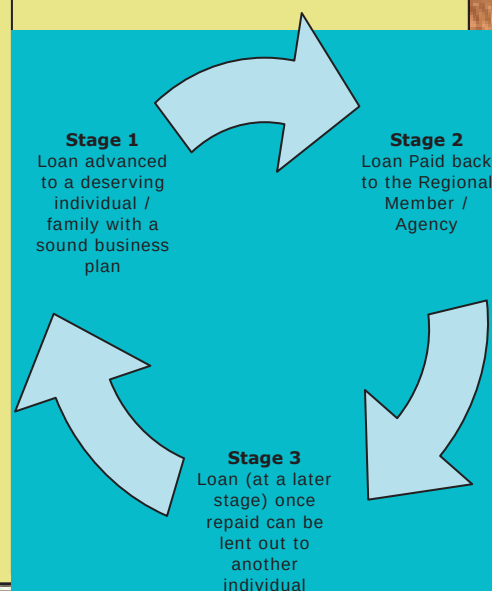
meet all of the following criteria:

- *Must genuinely be seeking to develop themselves financially*
- *Must be a Shia Muslim*
- *Must have a low income and currently not be able to afford the capital outlay required*
- *Must create a business plan and approved by an agency of The World Federation.*

HOW IS A LOAN PROVIDED?

Once an individual meets the above criteria, the borrower must comply with the following process:

- Complete and submit an application for a 0% loan
- The application is assessed and a thorough business plan must be created
- The business plan must be accepted by the Regional Member or agency
- A repayment schedule is agreed upon which will be paid back between 3-5 years
- Repayments are made and training is organized if needed
- Progress reports are provided to the sponsors covering a period of 2 years, showing the individual's increase in income as a result of providing them with this capital.





BENEFITS OF THE WFEDP

There are several benefits to offering 0% loans to the poverty-stricken:

- Increased income
- Increased independency and self confidence
- Reduction in social exclusion
- Improved education for children
- Reduction in severity of poverty
- Reduction in reliance on others
- Improved healthcare

BENEFITS OF 0% LOANS

A loan versus a handout will encourage the borrower to think through and create a feasible business plan, creating a higher likelihood of a longer term revenue plan.

A loan would encourage the borrower to use the capital investment appropriately.

A loan at 0% will not have any conflicts with the Islamic Shariah.

HOW WILL SUCCESS BE MEASURED?

One of the main roles of the Regional member or agency is to ensure that all individuals who are granted loans are earning and uplifting themselves out of poverty. This evaluation will be done through obtaining regular and consistent progress reports of the borrower and carrying out thorough impact assessments.

Progress reports will monitor the financial state of the individual including their income, explanations of profit or loss and future projections.

Impact assessments will investigate whether or not the borrower has improved his or her economic condition and how the change has benefited the family in terms of education, medical costs, housing and empowerment. Downsides will also be assessed, as well as how to correct them. For example, if the repayment is too high, a new schedule will be agreed upon in order to make the individual successful.

WHERE HAS THE WORLD FEDERATION STARTED THIS PROGRAMME?

At present, the Economic Development Programme has been initiated in Sri Lanka. The Shia Muslim community there is extremely needy and is one of the poorest in the world. The World Federation is also working on Tabligh activities in Sri Lanka to increase the awareness of the Shia Ithna-Asheri faith there. By the Grace of the Almighty, many are converting.

The World Federation has developed a strong relationship with the Az-Zahra Association in Sri Lanka who will identify Shia Muslims who meet the criteria to apply for these micro-credit loans.

At the same time, a few families in Bihar, India have also been sponsored through The WFEDP. They have struggled a great deal in their attempt to establish a small business but needed additional support to pull through the difficult times.

The World Federation hopes to sponsor more deserving individuals in India and Pakistan. The goal is to

establish a long term sustainable fund that can be recycled so that several individuals in these developing countries have an opportunity to generate incomes that will enable them to become independent and self reliant .

BECOME A SPONSOR

The World Federation is seeking sponsors for the Economic Development Programme. As a donor, you will be allocated a deserving person who will use the loan to become a small scale entrepreneur. You will be provided with a progress report for the first 2 years. By becoming a sponsor for this worthy programme, you will be giving an individual a chance to break out of their cycle of poverty, and improve the lives of their families.

Did you know?

- Over one billion people lack access to basic financial services.
- Over the last 5 years, the microfinance sector has grown at an average rate of 25-30%.
- Self-employment constitutes 50 -70% of the labour force among the poorest populations in developing countries. In fact, it is estimated that about 500 million people run micro businesses. Yet fewer than 10 million of these people, or about 2.5% are able to obtain loans from banks or traditional lending institutions.
- The cost of establishing a rural finance network in a remote area is likely to be 80 per cent higher than in a more accessible regions.
- Poor families with access to financial services are more likely to send their children to school, and the children stay in school longer.

Source: IFAD

Some of the applicants for the Economic Development Programme - Sri Lanka

AGE & GENDER	WORK STATUS & FAMILY BACKGROUND	BUSINESS PLAN	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	SPONSORSHIP (ONE-TIME CAPITAL COST)
39 Years Female	Housewife Unemployed Married 4 Children	LUNCH PACKS - plans to make and sell lunch packs and snacks in small hotels and cafes in town.	Confident that this project will be a success for the sake of her school going children and in order to pay back the loan.	GBP 200 USD 400 CAD 400
29 Years Female	Hair Dresser Self-Employed Married 2 Children	HAIR SALON - plans to open a small salon in her home.	Obtained a Diploma in Hair Dressing with the support of a Muslim organization; Apart from her family, she is looking after her aged mother and unmarried sister who is suffers from an incurable disease.	GBP 280 USD 560 CAD 560
39 Years Male	Salesman Self-Employed Married 4 Children	GROCERY SHOP - plans to stock a variety of grocery items in her shop. Hopes to make a profit by purchasing goods in bulk at wholesale rates.	Hopes to earn Rs 7,500 / 35 GBP per month	GBP 210 USD 420 CAD 420
47 Years Male	Vegetable Vendor Married 4 Children	VEGETABLE CART - plans to purchase a cart to vend an vegetables, house to house. Confident that housewives would prefer to buy their vegetables at their doorstep rather than going into town.	Is confident that this venture will be a success and that he will earn enough to take care of his family.	GBP 240 USD 480 CAD 480
53 Years Male	Carpenter Self-Employed Married 3 Children	WOOD SUPPLIER - plans to purchase a machine which chops wood into blocks; this will help him to get a better price for his wood.	Is determined to make his existing business more successful	GBP 240 USD 480 CAD 480
44 Years Female	Housewife Unemployed Married 5 Children	FISH MARKET - plans to purchase fish at wholesale rates and sell them at retail rates. Will sell from home and her husband hopes to use his bicycle to sell to people living in other areas.	Hopes to earn Rs 8,000 / 40 GBP per month	GBP 240 USD 480 CAD 480
36 Years Male	Gem Cutter Unemployed Married 3 Children	GEM SHOP - plans to purchase a gem cutting machine to earn a better income.	Was employed by a gem merchant for the past 10 years where he learnt the trade of gem cutting. However, his salary was barely enough to support his family.	GBP 280 USD 560 CAD 560



Charity Gifts Programme

Where Your Gift Reaches Out To So Many ■ www.world-federation.org/charity-gifts/

“The Prophet of God (saw) liked gifts and considered them to be good and allowed. He took gifts and gave equal gifts in return.” (Imam Reza, as)

The World Federation recently launched its first ever “Charity Gifts” homepage. Charity Gifts offers a new and unique way of buying presents for family and friends from The World Federation website. The portal was launched in time for Eid-ul-Fitr 1429, with a selection of unique gifts, which will inshAllah benefit the needy and deserving. A Charity Gift is one of the most valued gifts you can give yourself and your family. Through this programme, you will be reaching out to so many who need your help. Please visit The World Federation Charity Gifts website to make a difference today: www.world-federation.org/charity-gifts/

The gifts available for purchase have been specially selected and fall into a range of categories including economic upliftment, orphan and elderly sponsorship, education and health. With the purchase of each gift, an automatic electronic certificate along with a message from the purchaser will be sent to the recipient. However, most importantly, we will give the gift to those that need it most.

HOW CAN I BUY A GIFT FOR SOMEONE?

1. Select one of the gifts on offer and purchase the gift on behalf of your relatives or friends.
2. You will be asked for your details and for the details of the recipient.
3. Once you have given us these details and the donation has been activated, we will confirm with you safe receipt of the funds.
4. In addition, an electronic certificate and any message from you will be automatically sent to the recipient's email address.

WHAT IMPACT WILL MY GIFT HAVE?

Your gift will have a significant impact on the lives of those living in poverty and destitution. In addition, for certain gifts (which are specially labelled) we will send out a report letter or an allocation letter to highlight to both you and the recipient the difference your gift has made.

HOW LONG DOES THE PROCESS TAKE?

Once you have selected a gift, the process of sending the message from you and a certificate to the recipient is immediate. We will send a copy of the certificate to you as well.

CHARITY GIFT SELECTION

Choose from one or more of the below 11 gifts:



WINTER BLANKET
£8



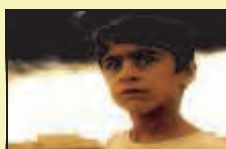
SENIOR SPONSORSHIP
(1 MONTH) £10



PRIMARY EDUCATION
(1 MONTH) £10



GIFT OF SIGHT
£25



IRAQI ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP
(1 MONTH) £30



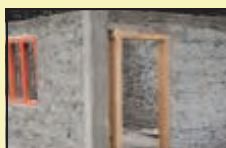
SENIOR SPONSORSHIP
(1 YEAR) £120



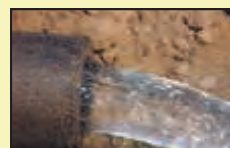
EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP
(1 YEAR) £120



GROCERY/HARDWARE STORE £250



HOUSING: 1-ROOM SHELTER
£250



WATER WELL
£500

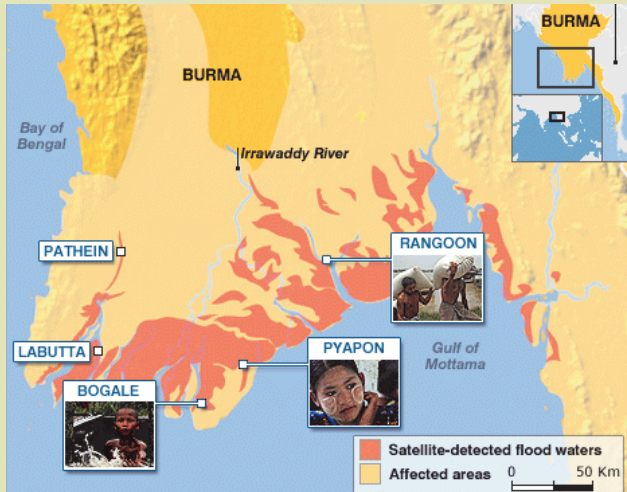


CONSTRUCTING A MOSQUE
£1,800



Myanmar Relief 2008: Cyclone Nargis

An Update from Myanmar (Burma) and An Appeal for Long-Term Support



UNIMAGINABLE DEVESATION

The South-Western coast of Myanmar (Burma) was left devastated from the effects of Cyclone Nargis on Saturday 3 May 2008. The coast was hit with a 12 foot wall of water, which swept away entire villages, flooding the area and leaving thousands dead, missing or homeless. The 240 km/hr winds showed no mercy as they tore through trees, power lines, homes, and buildings. The capital city of Yangon, whose population of 5 million people (including Shia Muslims) was left without electricity and experienced water shortage. With food supplies limited, looting and other violence were also reported.

LONG TERM STRUGGLES

Rice is an important staple food for the people of Myanmar, which has in the past produced scarcely enough to feed itself and, more recently, stave off rising prices. The low-lying Irrawaddy Delta, which was severely affected by the Cyclone, produces up to 65% of the country's crop. By the time the storm had hit, farmers had already harvested their dry season crop; however, a substantial amount was still left in the fields and are now completely destroyed. The fear brewing among various international organisations now is that there will be a significant food shortage in the next 18- 24 months, with famine the most likely outcome.

As the survivors of this massive storm struggle for shelter, food, water, and fear of disease, we as a community cannot shirk from our responsibility of helping our brothers and sisters in Myanmar.

According to The World Health Organisation (WHO), the risk of disease is enormous, especially given that Myanmar has one of the most poorest health systems in the world. The WHO reports of children suffering from upper

respiratory diseases. Mosquito borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever, which are already indigenous to the area, are also very possible.

The World Federation President, Dr. Ahmed Hassam described the concern for our community: *'The World Federation is most concerned about the well being of our Shia Community in Myanmar and have made regular contact with our community leaders there. We must demonstrate a medium and long term commitment to helping our brothers and sisters there to recover fully from this large scale disaster and to help in their upliftment, inshAllah.'*

SHORT-TERM AID PROVIDED

Since the Cyclone hit, short term support was given to the Shia community in Myanmar through our agency there:

- Provided emergency petty financial aid to 451 families
- Rebuilt 28 houses using low-cost materials
- Re-roofed 109 homes
- Provided rental accommodation for 23 families whilst their homes get rebuilt
- Repaired an additional 291 houses to make them fit for human habitation for the monsoon season
- Sponsored 206 students to attend school

Dr. Ahmed Hassam stated that: *'After reviewing the recent report of the current situation in Myanmar, I was saddened to learn of the significant continuing effects the cyclone will have on the community there. We are committed to helping our brothers and sisters in Myanmar for the long run.'*

HOW IS THE WORLD FEDERATION ASSISTING IN THE LONG TERM?

Whilst several NGOs focus on the immediate relief needs and the early stages of a disaster (e.g. food parcels, blankets and clean water), their work is usually not continued into the long run; this leaves the locals unable to recover fully from the disaster. The World Federation aims to focus the greater part of its efforts, where and when possible, on the rehabilitation and recovery stage of disasters, facilitating the local community to return to normality.

Shan-E-Abbas Hassam, Assistant Secretary General for Relief & Economic Development stated: *'The disaster in Myanmar (Burma) is of a huge scale, one which is difficult for us to imagine. We can best add value in the later.'*



stages of a disaster. This is because our structure is very different to other organisations who specialise in disaster relief. We shall work in the medium and long term and continue to inform community members with latest information.'

At present, our work includes providing temporary shelters and mosques as well as healthcare initiatives. The next step involves the healing and long term projects aimed at assisting the victims to recover their livelihoods so that they can become self reliant for a better future. Recovery projects would include restoration of housing, economic upliftment, and education programmes.

The World Federation has been working in Myanmar for a number of years, more so in its Ramadhan Relief Program there. Our partnering agency on the ground has surveyed the devastated areas inhabited by the Burmese Shiah living on the fringes of Yangon and the Irrawaddy Delta. Unfortunately, due to the inaccessibility of some of the areas in these districts, especially in the Irrawaddy Delta, the information that is being gathered is still ongoing.

A BREAKDOWN OF THE CYCLONE'S EFFECT ON THE SHIA MUSLIMS IN MYANMAR

WAKEMA TOWNSHIP:

- This township was spared the widespread destruction suffered by Dedaye 100 km to the south
- 8 families lost their roofs which were quickly replaced

DEDAYE TOWNSHIP

- By far the region in which the Shia Muslims have been hardest hit by the cyclone
- 212 families affected by the storm
- 161 casualties, including 40 dead
- Most houses were destroyed or rendered not fit to live in; whilst the residents have received some assistance in rebuilding their homes from government approved aid agencies, it has unfortunately proved far from adequate
- Financial support, medical treatment, blankets, and mosquito nets have been provided to the affected families to help meet their short term needs

YANGON TOWNSHIP

- Although Yangon was not subjected to the flooding which other regions of the delta were, it bore the full brunt of the cyclone's 200 km/h winds
- Flimsy dwellings of the Shias living in shanty towns on the outskirts of the city were greatly damaged
- 382 families were affected here and 58 casualties have been officially reported

- Our agency has set up a temporary medical clinic staffed by 2 community doctors for the treatment of non-critical injuries. These doctors refer the more serious patients to specialist clinics, provide assistance in obtaining X-Rays, ultrasounds, and other diagnostic tests to patients suffering from severe bone fractures and/or major diseases. The clinic has started to dispense medicines to the needy.
- Our agency has also ensured that those requiring emergency medical care are hospitalised at no cost them

HOUSING: BUILDING A LASTING SOLUTION

Whilst our agency has been doing everything within its power to alleviate the sufferings of the cyclone-ravaged victims in Myanmar, The World Federation will aim to focus its efforts on the housing crisis that our Burmese brothers and sisters are faced with.

There are at least two existing challenges:

- Firstly, to address the long-term housing needs of those families whose homes were temporarily repaired with low-cost materials soon after the Cyclone hit; this was done to provide interim shelter for the upcoming monsoon season which began shortly after Cyclone Nargis struck.
- Secondly, although some families have been provided with provisional rental accommodation, rental prices have climbed sharply since the tragedy struck due to the increased demand for housing.

Since the cyclone hit, The World Federation has been receiving donations for the Myanmar Cyclone Appeal; these funds have already been sent to our partnering agency in Myanmar. Given the above information, findings and recommendations by our agency in the region, The World Federation is exploring options for the medium and long-term recovery and upliftment of our brothers and sisters in Myanmar and will therefore continue to keep this fund open.



Village near Yangon

Handing Over the Mombasa Medicine Subsidy Scheme

**“Give alms and cure your sick persons by it,
because alms can surely remove your bad fortunes
and ailments; and it causes prolongation of your lifetimes
and increases your rewards.”**

The Holy Prophet (saw)

Since April 1999, The World Federation has been financing part of the cost of medications for the members of our community in Mombasa, Kenya. Whilst the well-to-do were able to afford these medicines, and the needy were given assistance through the community welfare program, it was actually those families in between that seemed to be struggling in an environment where the cost of medication was spiralling upwards in Kenya. As a result, several people were not taking the necessary drugs or were going without any medication at all.

This programme has been broadly publicised in Mombasa, giving the people there every opportunity to take advantage of the offer. Because the need for such a programme was evident in Kenya, the Medicine Subsidy Scheme was initiated here first.

The Makadara Chemist dispenses all the medications required, providing the community members with a 20% discount. The World Federation then subsidises an additional 33% of the total cost of the medicines.

A community member who is benefitting from the scheme states: *“My wife has been ill for very long. Before this scheme was introduced, my bills for medicine were continuously increasing and it was becoming difficult for me to sustain the costs. Alhamdulillah, ever since The World Federation started subsidising on the cost of medicines, it has reduced the extra financial burden from my shoulders. I am ever so grateful to The Almighty for His mercy and kindness and I feel indebted to the community and The World Federation for thinking of the less privileged people within the community.”*

Another community member expresses: *“I have a family with three children and aged parents. I have been employed for many years now and with the salary I earn, we just make ends meet. My aged parents continuously require medication for one illness or the other. Had it not been for the scheme The World Federation introduced, it would have been even more difficult to meet all the*

demands. I always pray to God (SWT) to grant all those who have made this possible Ajre Azeem.”

This simple concept has greatly benefitted the residents of Mombasa. To date, The World Federation has subsidised almost 165,000 GBP / Ksh 21,280,501 towards this project, and expects to continue supporting this effort until December 2008 after which it will be handed over to the Mombasa Jamaat.

The Chairman of the KSI Jamaat of Mombasa, Aliraza J. Karim states: *“Mombasa Jamaat is indeed very grateful to The World Federation for having initiated the discount scheme for medicines. The escalating costs of medical bills and pharmaceutical drugs always effects the less privileged members of the community and at times if the patient is terminally sick, the family members have to utilise their savings to meet the costs. I am sure many families in Mombasa benefit through this scheme and are indeed grateful to The World Federation for having initiated this project and we pray to the Almighty to give you all the strength and vigour to continue serving the community with the same spirits.”*





Kenya Post-Election Crisis 2008

“The relationship between patience and faith is similar to that of head and body. If there is no head, there cannot be a body. So if there is no patience, there cannot be any faith.” (Imam as-Sadiq, as)

Although, the violence seems to have settled since the crisis that followed the Kenyan elections in December 2008, Kenyans continue to rebuild their homes and their livelihoods which were affected. The Presidential election sparked days of unfriendly protests, looting, rioting and brutality causing clashes between tribes.

The magnitude of the aggression claimed the lives of over 1,200 citizens and displaced several hundreds of thousands more. Approximately 350,000 people were taken to temporary camps, while about the same number sought shelter from friends and relatives.

Many Kenyans, including women, children, the less fortunate members of our community and the African Shia converts were greatly affected by the aftermath of the election crisis, especially in obtaining their basic needs. In response to this crisis, The World Federation and The Africa Federation jointly contributed GBP £8,000 in aid to assist our community members who were affected.

The Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya worked alongside the Kenya Red Cross to provide essential supplies to the victims. By distributing maize flour, cooking oil and clothing, Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya was able to help hundreds families in the areas of Changamwe and Kisauni. On 30 and 31 January, Bilal Muslim Mission distributed a total of 32,850 kilograms of maize seeds and 6,156 litres of cooking oil to more than 2,000 families in rural centres.



Marriage Assistance in India

**“The best mediation is when you intercede between two persons for lawful marriage so that they both marry under the law of God”
(Imam Amir-ul-Mu'mineen, as)**

In the Indian state of Bihar, about 80% of Shia Muslims earn minimal to no income. Earning a living there is not easy as work is difficult to find. Subsequently, not being able to afford daily provisions is one of the greatest challenges faced by our brothers and sisters living in Bihar.

Arranging a wedding is a serious issue for Muslims in Bihar, as they simply cannot meet the expense of even the basic Nikkah ceremony.

To make it easier for the young men and women who wish to marry, The World Federation provided 59 Sadaats and non-Sadaats from disadvantaged families with a cash gift of INR 5000 to 110,000 (£60–£120 GBP) to help supplement their wedding costs.

To date, The World Federation has donated a total of INR 210,000 (£2,421 GBP). This cash gift allows them to afford a wedding dinner and purchase a couple of new wedding outfits. This small amount of five to ten thousand rupees was gratefully received by the individuals.



The Earthquake of Pakistan — October 2005

A Tragic Day for the People of Pakistan



A young girl cries after the earthquake, many like her have lost their family members – Photo courtesy of the BBC.

The day of 8 October, 2005 began like any other day for the people of Northern Pakistan. As usual, the morning rush was underway as fathers ventured off to work and mothers saw their beloved children off to school. Who could predict that moments later the nation would be rocked by a devastating earthquake registering a ferocious magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter Scale. Over 1,000 aftershocks were felt throughout the region, labeling this quake as one of Pakistan's most sizeable natural disasters.

The quake was about six miles deep and 30,000 square miles wide—across three bordering countries. Buildings swayed killing thousands as weak structures tumbled, crushing people under mounds of rubble.

Although the epicenter was located 80 kilometers north-east of Islamabad, the earthquake was felt in the Pakistani capital, its impact extending to Afghanistan and to western Bangladesh. The worst hit areas were Pakistan-



Administered Kashmir and in the North West Frontier Province; both areas have large Shia populations. Here, 75,000 people lost their lives, over 128,000 were injured and 3.5 million left homeless. Amongst those who lost their lives were 18,000 students who were killed when more than 6,000 poorly constructed buildings collapsed on them. The true horror of this earthquake involved whole villages and towns being destroyed, many removed from the map altogether. In addition, landslides, blocked roads and severe damage to major infrastructures depicted the scene of the aftermath. The destruction took only seconds.

With the help of the Hussaini Foundation of Pakistan, The World Federation responded immediately to the disaster. The first task was to assess the need on the ground for immediate relief. Thanks to the community's generous contributions, emergency relief was provided in the form of blankets, clothes, tents, basic food rations, clean water and medication.

At the same time, The World Federation also placed a great deal of emphasis on the medium-term aid.





THE STATE OF THE SURVIVORS ~ 3 YEARS LATER



This included building 9 tent schools, 49 temporary mosques and imambarghas in time for Muharram 2006, and shelters for homeless families. During Muharram 2007 an additional 35 mosques were provided.

Shan-E-Abbas Hassam, the Assistant Secretary General for Relief & Economic Development described the nature of immediate relief provided by our community: *'By providing food, shelter, clean water and accommodation in a speedy and effective manner, we managed to help ease some of the huge difficulties faced by the Shia of Northern Pakistan. However, within a few months the vast majority of international NGOs have moved out and as such it is the duty of The World Federation to continue to support the Hussaini Foundation in its plans for recovery and rehabilitation so that the community in Pakistan is well looked after.'*

Although the rebuilding of the Northwest Frontier Province is in progress, this is just the beginning of the recovery and rehabilitation stage. Even after 3 years, thousands of people continue to live in temporary homes, such as tents. As this area is mountainous, temperatures in the winter can drop to -15°C in many of the villages, impacting the most vulnerable including the elderly, widows and children. All of these victims have been forced to survive several cold



Reconstruction Efforts Achieved

- 9 tent schools set up
- 49 temporary and 13 permanent mosques and imambarghas built
- 800 one room shelters constructed
- 165 two room shelters constructed
- 5 water projects
- One orphanage, housing 50 orphans

winters in canvas tents which offer no protection from the cold, wind and rain. They have little or no access to adequate sanitation facilities and clean water. These Shia families have neither security nor comfort and desperately need aid in obtaining permanent homes to live in—for they dread reliving another cold winter in such difficult conditions.

Children attend temporary indoor and outdoor schools in order to continue with their studies and to maintain some sort of normalcy amongst the destruction and chaos their environment can offer. Countless are traumatized of what they witnessed and live in fear of yet another earthquake.

Despite aid efforts, many areas still resemble disaster zones. The Hussaini Foundation has embarked on a large-scale plan to house these homeless families and The World Federation is working in partnership with them to build 300 homes in Siachen, where about 300 houses were destroyed.

Shan-E-Abbas Hassam, The Assistant Secretary General for Relief & Economic Development stated: *'We commend highly the hard work of the Hussaini Foundation and their commencement of the next stage of the recovery for those affected by the October 2005 Pakistan Earthquake. We are at this time raising funds for this noble cause and would encourage donors to come forward. We shall be providing each donor who completes the housing donation form with a report prepared by the Hussaini Foundation to show their contribution to this particular project.'*



Rebuilding Lives: Pakistan Earthquake Housing Appeal

Homes for the Homeless



Since the onset of the Pakistan earthquake in October 2005, The World Federation in partnership with the Hussaini Foundation have worked jointly to provide immediate relief for the victims. Today, both organizations continue to work side by side and to address the rehabilitation and recovery stage of disaster relief.

Despite the provision of temporary accommodations, many families continue to live in inadequate housing including temporary tents that cannot sufficiently shelter them from the cold, wind and rain. Day after day, survivors struggle for food, access to education and the basic comforts and necessities of life. Today, camps are overcrowded, tents leak, and fresh clean drinking water is hard to find. Children continue to attend temporary indoor and outdoor schools, making do with facilities they have been given. The learning environment is poor and there is a shortage of teachers and teaching materials.

RECOVERY TO REHABILITATION PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE HOUSING APPEAL

The World Federation and the Hussaini Foundation of Pakistan launched the Pakistan Earthquake Housing Appeal to help fulfill the long awaited dream of the quake survivors.



The rehabilitation plan was initiated with the commitment to construct one-room permanent homes made of brick for 300 families at the foothills of Siachen – in the Northern area of Pakistan in the Kunduz Valley of the Gangchay District. About 300 houses in this area were destroyed by the earthquake, and 106 were partially damaged.

The Hussaini Foundation is the region's local partner of The World Federation. By sourcing building materials from the local government at subsidized rates, the cost of each house is Rs 30,000 (250 UK GBP/ USD 500/ CAD 500).

Shan-E-Abbas Hassam, The Assistant Secretary General of Relief & Economic Development stated: *'The need for permanent housing is essential and we will work hard to provide this for our brothers and sisters. Many are living in the open air or with inadequate tents. We are urging community members to donate and we will do our best to provide status reports on construction.'*

Since the launch of the appeal, community members from around the world have generously donated to this cause, and to date we have raised enough funds to build **250 new homes**. Finally, the beginning of a dream fulfilled.

Today, three years after the earthquake, construction of the new one-room houses have already begun. Finally, our brothers and sisters in this area have peace knowing that their sufferings will soon be alleviated. Construction is scheduled to be completed by October /November 2008, before the onset of winter when the snow and harsh weather conditions will block access to roadways needed by construction vehicles and trucks carrying supplies and equipment.





The Al-Qa'im Sponsor Our Seniors Programme

An Appeal for Our Seniors in India, Sri Lanka & Pakistan



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

The Al-Qa'im Sponsor Our Seniors (SOS) Programme gives disadvantaged senior citizens living in developing countries like India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka the opportunity to afford basic living essentials that they otherwise could not manage to pay for.

WHY IS THIS PROGRAMME IMPORTANT?

Villages in third world countries are seriously underdeveloped, where countless people, including seniors, live in mud shacks and other inadequate housing. To make life even more difficult, earning a living is challenging as jobs are scarce. Of those jobs that are available, they are based around manual labor. Many families depend on their young males to earn their livelihood. There are many seniors who have no young family to look after them, or their children do not earn enough to support them.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES SENIORS FACE?

Because these elders are already too old and too frail to earn for themselves, and because of the circumstances that several of the seniors live in, they go to sleep hungry night after night, suffer from serious old age illnesses and ailments and must go without the necessary treatment. Each day they wear old and torn clothing and don't even have access to even a clean glass of water ~ something we in the West take for granted everyday. Several live in isolation and deal with constant feelings of loneliness and despair. Their old age and poor health make their lives a constant battle.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAMME?

The SOS programme aims to give dignity and peace of

mind to our elderly Shia Muslims living in severe poverty in developing countries by providing monthly financial aid to allow them to provide themselves with necessities such as food, clothing, and medication.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Each month, seniors who are sponsored through the SOS Programme receive financial aid. Every effort is made to ensure that the funds are transferred to them both respectfully and systematically, so that their honor and dignity is maintained.

For instance, in Bihar, India, a bank account is set up for each senior where funds are deposited into each of their accounts monthly for them to spend. This method assures that their self-respect, independence and security are maintained. Furthermore, it has made a significant difference in the quality of foods that they eat, the shelters they live in, and the health benefits they can now afford.

IS THE PROGRAMME WORKING?

This project left a huge impression on one of the India Documentary Team Members, Abbas Akbar (age 17), who witnessed the incredible effect the scheme has. He had the opportunity to visit one of the villages in Bihar, India where seniors there are sponsored through the SOS Programme.

Upon his return, he commented: *"On my visit to villages in the state of Bihar, I witnessed that the small help we give really goes a long way to help the deprived seniors in the villages around Bihar. One particular encounter I remember is when we met the oldest lady in the village who had passed her 90's, and she broke down into tears to express to Allah (swt) her gratitude that she had been helped by her community men and women who hadn't forgotten their roots."*

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

To date about 332 seniors from India, Iraq, Sri Lanka and Pakistan have already gone through the sponsorship programme; and with your help, our hope is to continue supporting these and many more seniors from various countries across the world.

Since the re-launch, the programme is gaining momentum. Thanks to the generosity and compassion of donors, 190 out of 350 seniors today are receiving sponsorship through the SOS Programme. However, there are still 160 more senior citizens waiting for sponsors to come forward.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Today, we are seeking donors to sponsor another 14 destitute seniors in Sri Lanka and Bihar who have applied for aid. All of these seniors here are non-sadat; therefore Sadaka monies will be accepted towards this Programme.

WHY SHOULD YOU HELP?

Each day is a constant struggle for these elderly. They are weak, malnourished and ill. They often skip meals and go to bed hungry. They do not even have the ability to afford the basic simple necessities of everyday living. They must fight their illnesses with no provision for medications or medical care and their homes are far from adequate.

It is our responsibility to care for those elders who are not able to care for themselves, nor have anyone to look after them. For these seniors, time passes with agonizing slowness when you're hungry, sick or scared.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO HELP?

For only £10 GBP / \$20 USD/CAD per month (or £120 GBP / \$240 USD/CAD per year) you can make life better for one senior. Make a one time donation, or contribute monthly, quarterly, bi-annually or annually. As a donor, we will provide you with a report of your senior(s) at least once a year.

Shan-E-Abbas Hassam, Assistant Secretary General for Relief and Economic Development described the reporting

Support Our Seniors

The seniors in some of our Muslim communities are suffering in pain,
Their life is now bleak; their state is in vain,
Their cry for help needs to be answered,
Otherwise, their life will continue to be a disaster.

They have no food to eat and starve for days,
Their quest for food seems like an impossible maze,
Whilst we have food to eat day after day,
They suffer and struggle, and can only pray.

Their health and well being is deteriorating slowly,
Their body and eyesight start weakening; they are always poorly,
We are blessed with health at its very best,
Whilst they need treatment; otherwise they can't rest.

As we see, they live in extreme loneliness and pain,
If we support them, we can raise their hope again,
Such basic needs if we can help them meet,
The reward for this will be Allah's treat.

However small your contribution may be, it will go a long way,
It will help alleviate their sufferings and take them out of disarray,
Allah will bless you for taking care of His Ummah,
Save one, save mankind, and from Him will come Rahmah (mercy).

Written by, Kumail Remtulla of Portsmouth, UK

framework for the program: 'We would humbly encourage you to please sign up as a sponsor. We will be allocating all our sponsors a deserving senior; and we shall send you regular updates from him or her at least on an annual basis. At our side, we have put in place a tight reporting framework with our partners on the ground to ensure regular updates on each senior sponsored.'



Al-Qa'im Sponsor Our Seniors (SOS) Programme
Some of the many seniors that need your help today

AGE/GENDER COUNTRY	WORK/INCOME STATUS	FAMILY BACKGROUND	MEDICAL CONDITIONS	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
58 Years Female Sri Lanka	Housewife No Income	Non-Sadaat Widowed Has 2 children	Heart patient; has palpitations	Lives with unemployed son-in-law; practically starve when he is not earning; collects funds door to door to purchase heart medication.
69 Years Female Sri Lanka	Housewife No Income	Non-Sadaat Widowed Has 4 children	Arthritis on both knees	Daughter suffers from epileptic seizures; both live with her other married daughter and are dependant on them.
55 Years Female Sri Lanka	Retired Teacher Little Income	Non-Sadaat Married No Children	Parkinson's disease Low Blood Pressure	Cares for ill mother and husband who suffered a stroke; right hand & leg partially paralysed.
83 Years Female Sri Lanka	Housewife No Income	Non-Sadaat Widowed Has 3 children	Heart Disease Parkinson's Disease	Very old and frail. Lives with her unmarried daughter who works as a maid to support her mother.
67 years Female Sri Lanka	Housewife No Income	Non-Sadaat Widowed No children	Malnourished, prone to being ill	Cared for by relatives; depends on them for everything & fears future provisions; undernourished, suffers from chronic malnutrition.
78 Years Female Sri Lanka	Housewife No Income	Non-Sadaat Widowed Has one daughter	Parkinson's Disease Low Blood Pressure Weak Eyesight Arthritis Palpitations	Very old and frail and lives with daughter. The little money she gets in charity is spent on medications.
58 years Male Sri Lanka	Retired Clerk No Income	Non-Sadaat Married Has 2 children	Chronic Paralytic Polio; one leg al- most paralysed	Wife is also chronic paralytic polio patient with great difficulty using her right hand; struggling.
70 years Female Sri Lanka	Housewife No Income	Non-Sadaat Widowed No children	Malnourished, prone to being ill; Uses multiple medi- cations	Very old and frail; Cared for by relatives. Her illnesses are wors- ened due to lack of proper food.
74 Years Male Bihar	Unemployed gets £5 per month from children	Sadaat Married Has 2 sons/1 daughter	Old age illnesses/problems	Lives with his children; unable to work in his old age for his needs.
82 Years Female Bihar	Housewife No Income; sometimes helped by relatives	Sadaat Widowed No Children	Old age illnesses/problems	Many ailments associated with old age; lives with extended family.
72 Years Male Bihar	Unemployed No Income; sometimes helped by relatives	Non-Sadaat Widowed No Children	Old age illnesses/problems	Lives with extended family. Is too old and frail to work.

Zainabiya Health Centres & Ainullah Eye Clinics

Restoring Health and Eyesight to the Needy

The World Federation currently has 4 health centres and eye clinics operating in India and Pakistan. The clinics were established to provide basic medical care, eye exams, and eye surgeries to those who were suffering from the loss of eyesight and did not have the means to receive treatment.

Did you know that every five seconds one person in our world goes blind? Today nearly 50 million people are blind and another 150 million are victims of severe visual disability. Unless global efforts are significantly intensified, this number is projected to double by the year 2020. About 90% of the world's blind live in developing countries like India. However if significant efforts are made to reverse this problem, then about 70% of the blind people will regain their eyesight. About 60% of all blindness worldwide is caused by cataract, childhood eye disease, trachoma and onchocerciasis. The Ainullah Eye Clinics have been launched with the objective to help with treatment of these eye diseases and also provide regular screenings to help prevent these conditions or even blindness.

The service is available to all those who are needy, regardless of colour, creed or religion. It is free to those who cannot afford to pay and subsidised to those who can pay, depending on their affordability.

The eye clinics provide screening for patients, using state of the art equipment, and also provide cataract eye surgery at no cost, restoring the sight of hundreds of people.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE ZAINABIYA HEALTH CENTRES AND AINULLAH EYE CLINICS

BANGALORE, INDIA

There are over 100,000 people just outside of Bangalore that live in severe poverty and deprivation. Medical care is the last of their priorities as they lack even the basic facilities such as housing, food, sanitation and clean water.

In 1996, The World Federation set up the Zainabiya Health Centre here to provide basic health care to the people, as well as health education and awareness to teach preventative measures, immunisation, family planning and maternity care.

Cases of eye diseases, especially blindness, are prevalent in India. Individuals as young as in their 30's and 40's are blind with cataract, which is an easily treatable disease. The first Ainullah Eye clinic was opened on 24 June 2001.

Full operating facilities were started in January 2002; with the support of donors, this clinic was converted to The World Federation's first fully funded hospital on 8 January 2003.

From 2006 to 2007, three medical camps were organised in Bangalore. These camps included services such as vaccinations, gynaecology, general health checkups, and eye screenings. There was an overwhelming response to these camps and several hundred people were treated. This included:

- Vaccinations for 250 students
- Screening for 150 women
- General check ups for 450 students
- Eye screenings for 75 people, and 19 successful operations

The Bangalore clinic is the only clinic that is currently self-funded. The hospital treats private patients who are charged less than other private hospitals. Any profit is spent on treating those who cannot afford medical care, or to hold medical camps.

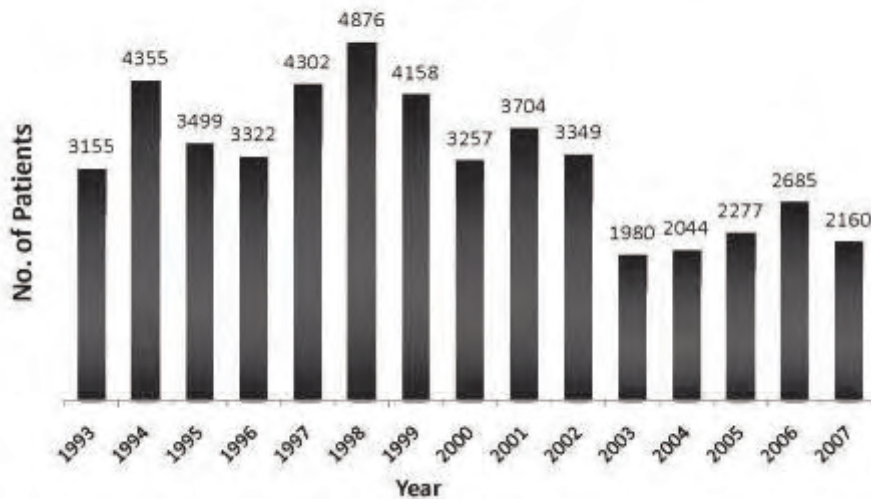
PATNA, INDIA

In 1993, the Zainabiya Health Centre was opened in Patna where medical services are provided to everyone, regardless of caste or religion. A physician visits the Centre to provide basic medical care, eye care and treatments. Cataract operations are also carried out here along with free eye camps where patients receive screenings, treatment and cataract surgeries. Spectacles are also provided to those who require them.

All patients are charged Rs 5 for registration and Rs 10 for the eye clinics. However, treatment and medication is provided free of charge to the patients.



**Patients Treated at Zainabiya Health Centre, Patna
1993- 2007**



For members of our community in Patna who need to be referred to a specialist, The World Federation subsidizes this cost so that the patients receive the treatment they urgently need without having to worry about the financing.

For a while, the eye camps were forced to close down by order of the Indian government; however, the Aeinullah Eye Clinic was opened in October 2002, as it was identified that there was still a very high demand for eye care and treatment.

In the future, The World Federation would like to work with the people in this region on prevention. By screening for chronic illnesses, patients can receive treatment and prevent complications in the future.

LUCKNOW, INDIA

The population of Lucknow is 3 million people, and there are about 300,000 Shias living there. It has one of the largest populations of Shia Muslims in India, particularly Sadaats, and is home to several Islamic study universities.

There are many poor and needy individuals living here who require medical treatment as well. The third

Aeinullah Eye Clinic was opened on 17 March, 2004 in Luknow. Currently, there are 3 doctors that run the clinic, and patients are charged Rs 5 for consultation. Treatment provided is free, and Shias who are not able to afford medication are provided what they need at no cost. Occasionally, doctors will use the operating theatres to treat private patients and a very minimal income is generated for the Aeinullah Clinic. The Zainabiya Health Centre in Lucknow treats patients who not only need primary care, but also those who require specialists and surgery. As a result the cost of running the clinic is high, as there are several patients who need surgery and special care for severe illnesses such as kidney transplants, dialy

sis, heart surgery and other smaller surgeries such as appendix, her-nia, or gall bladder. This is all provided to the patients at no charge.

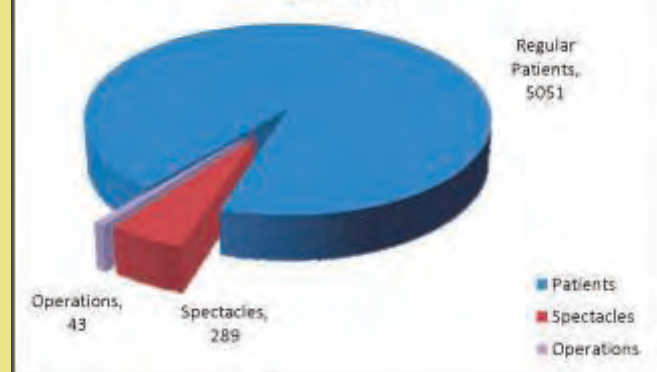
Neither the Aeinullah Eye Clinic, nor the Zainabiya Health Centre will be self-funding and will need the Continuous support of The World Federation and its donors.

The World Federation would like to create mobile clinics and health education in schools in the future in Lucknow. The mobile clinics would go into smaller villages providing treatment and raising awareness about public health to improve the lives of these people. Health education in schools would provide the tools necessary to young students on illness prevention.

MIANWALI, PAKISTAN

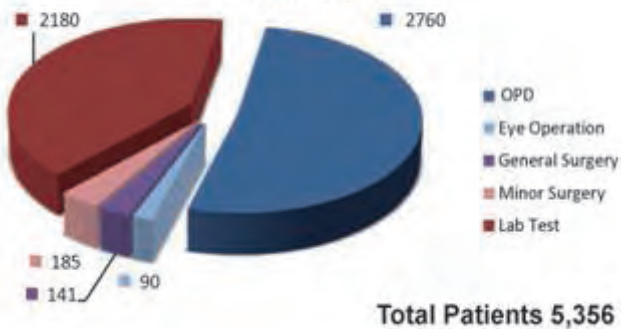
After the success of opening the Health Centres and Aeinullah Clinics in India, the 4th eye clinic was Opened in Mianwali on 13 January 2006. This part of Pakistan lacks any type of health care or services. The Al-Mehdi Hospital was established on 11 June, 1997, and the Aeinullah Eye Clinic was created within the hospital to serve the patients. Due to the climate and poverty in Mianwali, cases of cataracts are extremely high. To date, over 5,000 patients have been treated at the eye clinic.

**Patients Treated at the Aeinullah Eye Clinic in
Lucknow
2006-2008**





Patients Treated at Aeinullah Eye Clinic in
Mianwali, Pakistan
2006 - 2007



FINAL THOUGHTS

Health care and eye treatment are especially needed in all third world nations. Due to the lack of basic health education and awareness, thousands of people are affected by illnesses and diseases that can easily be avoided by preventative measures, such as vaccinations and adequate sanitation.

One of The World Federation's goals is to help alleviate the sufferings of the destitute by providing primary health care, medical and treatment for eye disease. The Zainabiya Health Centres and the Aeinullah Eye Clinics are already making a huge impact on the lives and health of several people in India and Pakistan. But, this is just the tip of the iceberg. There is still so much that needs to be done to improve the lives and health of so many more people. The success and overwhelming response to these clinics is just further evidence of the grave situation of so many Shia Muslims worldwide. It is hoped that eventually The World Federation will be able to offer such services in other parts of the world including Pakistan, Kenya and Tanzania.

The World Federation is calling upon donors to come forward and make a contribution towards the health and eyesight of so many people who are in desperate need, but are forced to go without medical care. Your donations will assist in the continuation of the running of these centres as well as providing other countries such services. *What better way to earn the blessings of Allah, than to help give someone the ability of good health and sight?*

"O Mufazzal! The eyes are set in the head as if a lamp is set on a lamp-post to enable him to see everything...the eyes are so constituted as to distinguish between colors. The colors would have been meaningless without such ocular proficiency, since these colors exist as a means whereby things may be distinguished from one another, or the eyes may get recreation there from." (Imam as-Sadiq, as)

Teaching Children How to Manage Autism

**The World Federation Autistic Day
Care Centre, Dar es Salaam**



One of Marhum Mulla Asghar M.M. Jaffer's dreams was realized when The World Federation Autistic Centre was opened in Dar-es-Salaam on 19 February 2006, by The World Federation President, Dr. Ahmed Hassam in the presence of The Africa Federation Chairman, Ramzanbhai Nanji, managing trustee, Dr. Zulfiqarali. G. Abbas and other leaders of our community. The first of its kind in the whole of East Africa, this centre provides structured support for children with autism and other disabling and chronic conditions.

AUTISM EXPLAINED

Autism is a complex developmental disability that is a result of a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain. All autistic individuals share common behavioral characteristics, and diagnosis is made on this basis.

Generally autistic children display the following:

- Impaired ability to engage in social interaction
- Impaired communication skills



- Specific behavioral patterns (e.g. preoccupation, resistance to change, repetitive behaviors)

Autism is not a mental illness. Children with autism are not unruly kids who choose not to behave. The syndrome of autism can be severely incapacitating and is life-long. It is important to understand that the symptoms of a person with autism can change as the individual matures and receives treatment.

Autism is not curable, but is highly treatable. Symptoms can be lessened and skills can be acquired with early intervention and support. Children with autism can learn to manage and deal more effectively with their difficulties.

THE WORLD FEDERATION AUTISTIC CENTRE

The World Federation Autistic Day Care Centre in Dar-es-Salaam was established to provide a well structured, nurturing environment to children diagnosed with autism and other chronic conditions such as Down Syndrome, ADHD, ADD and other learning disabilities.

Although there are schools for the disabled, there were no structured facilities for Autistic children. In order to receive support for their child, parents had to take them out of the country to places like Kenya, Saudi Arabia, South Africa or India. After researching the need and formalizing a structure for the school, its doors opened in February 2006.

The Centre currently operates as a day education school, teaching life and social, communication, and

behavior skills on top of the basic curriculum. Since it first opened, 34 children have been a part of the program, 15 of whom are Autistic.

There are many goals of the Centre:

To provide education and Rehabilitation:

- Individually designed programs best meet the needs of a person with autism. The Centre creates individual ongoing educational plans that are specific to each child, allowing the child to fulfill their unique potential. Through teaching and training from occupational therapists, psychologists, and teachers, these children are given the love and support they need to learn how to manage their symptoms and be able to lead productive, happy lives in the society they live in.



To provide a safe and stimulating environment :

- The Centre has good sized classrooms, a library, a kitchen, and a balcony area for interaction sessions. Other facilities include an arts and crafts area, and a sand playground for the children, complete with swings, seesaw, roundabout, slides and monkey bars. The centre also has a sensory room padded with soft shapes and balls, specifically designed to enhance social interaction and sensory awareness.

To create awareness in the society

- The Autistic Centre holds awareness days for the community and

other schools. The community is informed about what Autism is and how it should be dealt with. Educating the public creates more respect and acceptance for these children, allowing them to receive the same rights and opportunities as others. Workshops are held at various schools with the hope that children can eventually integrate into normal schools. Teachers have visited the Madrasah and Al-Muntazir School to raise awareness.

To provide support for families:

- Manage counseling sessions for parents and siblings of Autistic children to help them cope with the stress, exhaustion and discrimination they face on a daily basis.

SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION

The World Federation Autistic Day Care Centre receives in house training and full support from The National Autistic Society of the UK. The Centre has had renowned visitors, who train staff in working effectively with the children.

Kit Howe, Deputy Principal of the Robert Ogden School - Mr. Howe visited the Centre and spent time with the children staff. He offered advice and support in setting up the school, and gave The Robert Ogden's commitment to sending volunteers and essential help to the school.

"I left the Centre completely confident that it will go on to grow from strength to strength. A strong bond has developed between our two schools and that bond will ensure that everything possible will be done to support that growth." – Mr. Kit Howe



Kari Dunn Buron & Joyce Santo

Kari and Joyce visited the Centre in May 2008. They spent time working with the children and staff, and spoke at the Autism Awareness Day on 24 May 2008. During their stay, they helped to restructure the school curriculum and introduced new activities to the children.

Kari is one of the founding members of the Minnesota Autism Network. She is experienced in holding autism classes for parents as well as setting up schools. She is also the author of several books.

Kari said: *"The World Federation Autistic Day Centre is a valuable and much needed resource for the Dar es Salaam community. The program offers state of the art strategies for children with autism using visual structure and organization. The children are happy and seem to enjoy coming to school. In addition, the support staff at the centre are some of the hardest working people I have ever met"*.

Joyce has worked exclusively with children with autism for the past 15 years developing programs in both elementary and pre schools. She holds positions on several boards and committees for autism research and treatment.

Joyce said: *"We believe we left the program with not just a few new ideas but also empowered them to use a problem solving process to revise and adapt the program as the children learn and grow. It was a delight to work with such dedicated staff and charming children. The World Federation Autistic Day Centre is fulfilling a valuable service to the community"*.

Such visits provide staff and teachers with the opportunity to learn about other facilities and new teaching methods.

THE NEED FOR SUCH A CENTRE IN TANZANIA

Today as many as 1 out of every 166 children will be born autistic. Accurate diagnosis and early intervention can provide for building an effective and appropriate education and treatment program.

In developing countries, facilities to treat children with Autism are poor and very expensive. Children with Autism and other disabling challenges are discriminated against and considered to be worthless. They are often deprived of treatment and therapy and end up in institutions where they end up living out the rest of their lives.

Though it is very difficult to find specific data on the number of children affected by Autism in Africa, the number of those diagnosed is rising, and is now higher than it has ever been before.

Only recently in the United Kingdom, reports show that approximately 2% of boys have an autism spectrum disorder. Third world nations such as Africa or Asia don't have that kind of data collecting power; however, the little bit that we do know would indicate that it is every bit as serious if not worse in those nations.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The personalized therapy and education that the children at the Autistic Centre receive is already having a positive effect on them. The children have shown progress and improvement. There are several success stories of children showing positive change in behaviors.

A boy who joined the Centre at age 7, had never attended school and had behavior problems. He also needed assistance with toilet training and eating. Within 6 months of joining the school, he had shown improvement in his eating, social



behavior was toilet trained. He was much calmer less aggressive around others. He was happier, began to show interest in new things and was open to changes.

The support and structure that the facility provides helps the children overcome their challenges in an effective and successful manner.

YOUR SUPPORT IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The support and training provided at the Centre is already having a profound impact on the children, but there are several areas that still need to be addressed to further enhance the facilities and services provided. For instance:

- To meet the increased demand for the facility and services provided, funds are needed to cater to more children
- A 12 seat bus is needed to provide transportation for additional children to attend
- Sponsorship is required for many families who cannot afford fees (even though their child is in great need of the services available at the centre.

With proper diagnosis and therapy, these children have a chance at leading rich fulfilling lives.

"The Centre will not only be an excellent resource for the children who attend but will stand as a beacon that signals to their world that all children can enjoy and achieve with the right kind of education and care. The importance of this centre cannot be overstated and there is the potential, with further support and development for the school to become a centre of excellence from which others may learn." – Mr. Kit Howe,



The World Federation and IMI Hajj Medical Mission Sign A Memorandum of Understanding



The World Federation and Imamia Medics International (IMI) Hajj Medical Mission have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance medical services for Hujjaj during the Hajj season.

BACKGROUND

In 1977, The World Federation formed the Hajj Medical Mission. In 1999 a needs assessment was carried out by the former Medical Advisory Board (MAB) where the results showed that whilst most groups from Europe, North America and Africa already had doctors within their respective groups, the groups from Pakistan and India endured the most hardships as they did not have any medical practitioners within their groups.

In 2000, the Hajj Medical Mission was revived by The World Federation with a renewed objective to raise awareness of the importance of a doctor accompanying each Hajj group from India and Pakistan.

Simultaneously, the IMI Hajj Medical Mission was serving the Hujjaj from Pakistan for the last 6 years. The Mission organises pre-Hajj seminars, and apart from health lectures and medical advice, vaccinations are also offered to those intending to go for Hajj. In addition, numerous clinics are operated both in Makkah and Medina to facilitate ease of service for Shia Hujjaj.

THE NEED FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE

During the Hajj of 1426/2006, a meeting took place in Makkah between The World Federation and the IMI Hajj Medical Mission to discuss the current situation of the health care provided to Hujjaj. Here, Azad bhai Kanani, past Treasurer of The World Federation and Dr Munir M Datoo, Assistant Secretary General for Health, met with IMI representatives where they discovered that there is still a great need for health care to the Shia Hujjaj.

To further understand, develop and provide the necessary support to the hujjaj, a follow up meeting was held in Karachi in February 2007 between The World Federation, IMI Hajj Medical Mission and the Pakistan Pilgrim Society. Here, it was felt that there was a need to arrange for a Hajj Forum to discuss issues around Hajj.

HAJJ MEDICAL FORUM

In June 2007, a Hajj Medical Forum was held in Dar es Salaam to better understand the health care challenges faced by the hujjaj and how to provide them with the optimum care. Hajj representatives from various regions, along with community leaders participated. Some of the key points discussed at the Hajj Forum included:

- The concept of satellite medical clinics during Hajj
- Enhancing communication and coordination among Hajj groups from all regions
- Advantages of having regional Hajj organisers assemble their own groups

On 9 November 2007, the Council of European Jamaats (CoEJ) organised a historic meeting where representatives from all European Hajj groups met in London. Since then, the coordination of these groups has strengthened.

DEVELOPMENT OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

During Hajj 1427/2007, another follow up meeting took place between The World Federation's Dr. Munir Datoo, Assistant Secretary General for Health and Shan-E-Abbas Hassam, Assistant Secretary General for Relief and Economic Development with Dr. Arif Naqvi, Dr. Akil Moosa and Dr. Fakhir of IMI Hajj Medical Mission. At the meeting, it was felt that if the number of doctors who accompanied the Hajj groups increased, then the concept of Satellite Clinics could easily be realised. Furthermore, all groups within the Shia Muslim community who do not have a doctor will now have access by way of a daily visit from one of the team doctors.

IMI Hajj Medical Mission has 5 doctors within their team and it was considered that if The World Federation were to sponsor 4 doctors, then this would increase the strength of the team to 9 doctors who can then, Inshallah, cater to the needs of the Shia Hujjaj. As a result, this relationship then led to a *Memorandum of Understanding* between The World Federation and IMI Hajj Medical Mission.

Continued...

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: KEY POINTS

The World Federation will sponsor 4 doctors for a period of one year initially, and reviewed after the Hajj of 2008/1429.

IMI Hajj Medical Mission will inform The World Federation of:

- Addresses of clinics to be held in Hajj (by 15th Zilqa'ad)
- Their contact number in Saudi Arabia

The World Federation will share the above details with all of its regions who would then pass it on to the Hujjaj .

IMI will offer at least one clinic per day at the lodgings of groups from our community coming from Europe, North America and Africa who do not have their own doctors.

IMI will have one named person as the coordinator who will make contact with all groups from our community and visit the groups at least once during the duration of Hajj. The World Federation will provide contact details of all Hajj groups from the community coming from Africa, Europe and North America. IMI already has contact details of groups from Pakistan.

Both The World Federation and IMI will try and get contact details of Shia groups coming from India so as to serve Shia Hujjaj from India as well.



OUR VISION

The World Federation exists to achieve the pleasure of the Almighty (SWT) by developing spiritual and vibrant communities serving humanity.

OUR MISSION

The World Federation enables its member institutions to promote the values and practices of the Islamic Shia Ithna Asheri Faith for the spiritual and material well being of humanity at large .

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