



ZAKAT FOUNDATION of AMERICA

# ZAKAT NEWS

RAMADAN 2026 NEWSLETTER

**Give Early. Give With Clarity & Purpose.**



Ramadan 2025 **Impact:**

You Delivered **26 Million Meals**

Across **50 Countries**

YOUR #1 ZAKAT AUTHORITY  
IN ISLAMIC GIVING!





# ZAKAT FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

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# 2025 GLOBAL IMPACT SNAPSHOT

LIVES IMPACTED

**5,110,212**



**2,016,679**

Emergency Response



**1,567,309**

Food Security



**1,110,039**

Health and Wellbeing



**252,851**

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



**45,269**

Education



**43,575**

Orphan Care



**36,286**

Refugee Empowerment



**30,466**

Livelihood



**7,738**

Infrastructure



# Ramadan 2026 Preparing Our Hearts and Our World



Dear Friends,

**As-Salaamu 'Alaykum, Peace and Blessings,**

As we approach the blessed month of Ramadan, we enter a season of mercy, reflection, and extraordinary generosity. Every year, your compassion reaches families living through war, displacement, hunger, and uncertainty, and we witness how a single act of kindness can transform an entire household's Ramadan.

From Gaza to Yemen, Sudan to Afghanistan, and elsewhere millions of families will begin Ramadan without food on the table, access to clean water, and the basic security that every human being deserves. Despite these challenges, we have also seen how quickly hope rises when our community comes together.

Last Ramadan, your support fed **hundreds of thousands**, delivered clean water to remote villages, provided iftar to families fasting in crisis zones, and brought joy and stability to orphaned children. ***These are not simply numbers; They are lives touched, prayers answered, and dignity restored.***

As Ramadan approaches, you will find within these pages a snapshot of our work this blessed season, from feeding the poor, refugees, orphans, and the destitute, to providing lifesaving livestock that helps communities rebuild.

**Here's what you'll find inside:**

- **Food packages and iftar meals** for families in crisis
- **Orphan support** that continues beyond Ramadan
- **Water wells** and sustainable projects
- **Emergency assistance** for Gaza, Yemen, Sudan, and other crisis-affected regions
- **Clear guidance** to help you calculate and give your Zakat with confidence

**Our goal is simple:** to remind you early so that your giving is easy, informed, and impactful from the very first day of Ramadan. Your early support allows us to pre-position food, secure essential supplies, and respond immediately when the month begins.

**Ramadan is a time when the world slows down but our work intensifies.**

Together, we can make this a month where no community is left without hope.

Thank you for trusting us with your Zakat and your compassion. May Allah bless you and your loved ones with peace, health, and a Ramadan filled with mercy.

With gratitude and prayers,

*Khalil Demir*

**Khalil Demir**  
Executive Director

**“ These are not simply numbers.  
They are lives touched, prayers answered,  
and dignity restored. ”**

# Ramadan 2025 Impact: Guided by Compassion

## Thank You for Your Zakat and Sadaqah

Last Ramadan proved what collective compassion can accomplish. These numbers represent more than aid delivered; they reflect lives supported, families strengthened, and reminded communities that they are not alone. Your trust and commitment made this impact possible. Thank you for standing with those in need and for fulfilling your Zakat and Sadaqah through Zakat Foundation of America.



## From Grief to Survival: Uncle Abdullah's Story

At 72, **Uncle Abdullah** sits in Tawila Refugee Camp, watching children play in the dust. Once a farmer, his life revolved around the land he worked alongside his sons. But all that changed with a sudden attack.

Armed groups attacked his village, killing his sons, destroying homes, and erasing livelihoods.

Now, in his old age, he is responsible for his grandchildren. He fled the village with them and eventually arrived in Tawila, carrying grief and responsibility side by side.

*"There is nothing for us to do here," he says. "No land. No work."*

Basic food items like flour, rice, and cooking oil, once within reach, are now scarce. Each day is spent wondering how long what little they have will last.

When our food package reached him, Abdullah held it carefully, overwhelmed by the knowledge that someone had remembered them.

*"I thank Allah," he said. "This package is more than food; it brings hope for tomorrow and the courage to keep going. By the grace of Allah, we will survive."*

Through our Sudan relief efforts, families like Uncle Abdullah's receive more than aid - they receive dignity, relief, and a reason to endure, one act of compassion at a time.



# RAMADAN 2025 IMPACT



## FOOD SECURITY BENEFICIARIES

**26,027,894** Meals Served  
**285,082** Food Package Beneficiaries  
**370,514** Iftar Meals Distributed  
**47,917** Food Packages Distributed



## LIVESTOCK BENEFICIARIES

**6,035** Livestock Beneficiaries  
**2,118** Livestock Distributed



## ORPHAN CARE

**6,253** Eid Gifts Distributed  
**900** Orphans Sponsored



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**39,682** Lives Impacted  
**270** Mosques/Islamic Centers Visited



## WATER

**162,000** Water Distribution Beneficiaries

# From Crisis to Comfort- How Your Support Is Keeping Hope Alive

Across the world, families face Ramadan amid conflict, displacement, and hunger, uncertain where their next meal will come from. In these moments, your generosity becomes a lifeline. Your support reaches those struggling to survive, restoring dignity, relief, and hope when it matters most.



# Gaza: Our Uninterrupted Humanitarian Response

In the occupied Gaza Strip, daily life is a constant struggle. Families face **severe shortages of food, clean water, and medical supplies** amid ongoing instability, damaged infrastructure, and restricted humanitarian access.

That's why Zakat Foundation of America is committed to increasing aid and investing in the resilience of its people. With your support, we are reaching thousands of lives, delivering critical aid and hope to those who need it most.

Since the **2023 crisis**, your generosity has helped us deliver over **1 Million Hot Meals**, provide **winter coats** and essentials, supply **clean drinking water**, offer **shelter** through relief tents, **emergency relief** through our aid trucks, tons of **rice through our airdrop**, and much more!



In **August 2025**, famine was confirmed across Gaza, leaving 640,000 residents suffering and 132,000 children at risk of death from acute malnutrition- an outcome driven by relentless conflict, collapsed infrastructure, and critically restricted humanitarian access.

## In 2025 you helped provide:

**631,300**

nutritious meals served through our soup kitchen

**620,050**

meals delivered to the tents of Gazans

**176,886**

packages of essential food and vegetable staples

**2,480**

meat packages that nourished **13,480** people

**4,000**

rice packages that reached **30,000** people

**82,200**

people given bread and flour

## CRISIS FOCUS

Since the escalation began, our team has worked tirelessly to deliver daily food relief through our soup kitchens, along with extensive distributions of food, vegetables, and meat packages, as well as airdropped rice, bread, and flour to reach families in desperate need.

Recent rainfall and flooding have worsened conditions, washing sewage into living areas, damaging makeshift shelters, and increasing the risk of disease. Power outages and limited fuel disrupt water pumping, food storage, and health services leaving families struggling to prepare even a simple iftar meal.

They navigate a painful new reality, without loved ones, without the homes that once held their happiest memories, and without even the most basic food staples. When families cannot prepare even a simple iftar, compassion becomes their lifeline.



## Ramadan Amidst Recovery and Rebuilding

As Gaza prepares to welcome the blessed month of Ramadan, families do so amid uncertainty and the long struggle to rebuild their lives. For many, this sacred month arrives not with ease, but with exhaustion and grief. Ramadan is meant to be a time of mercy, comfort, and answered prayers. This year, your compassion can help restore that sense of solace. By giving, you can bring warmth to empty homes, nourishment to fasting families, and hope to hearts still healing.

**Last Ramadan, you opened your heart to help**

**233,540** people with:

**31,450** hot meals

**1,700** food parcels for **10,200** beneficiaries

**162,000** liters of clean water

**370** tent shelters housing **2,220** people

**950** Eid gifts for children

**1** mosque benefiting **100** people

For daily updates on Gaza visit **[zakat.org](https://zakat.org)**

# Yemen's Hunger Crisis Deepens

After years of war and economic collapse, millions of Yemeni families are struggling to survive. With 21.6 million people in need, **Yemen's crisis deepens daily**. In the face of climate disasters and food insecurity, urgent humanitarian support remains a lifeline for families with nowhere else to turn.

Hunger is widespread; malnutrition rates, especially among children and pregnant women, remain alarmingly high. **For many families, Ramadan fasting coincides with days when there is little or no food available at all.**

Zakat Foundation of America, in collaboration with local partners, **provides emergency food aid** to famine-stricken communities. During **Ramadan**, we offer Iftar meals to thousands of malnourished families and deliver locally raised **Udhiyah** (Qurbani) sacrifices.

Our **Livestock Animal Husbandry program** supports farmers with cattle, addressing food insecurity. Additionally, **we supply clean, life-saving water** to combat waterborne diseases affecting children and communities.

**This Ramadan can be transformational for families in Yemen when you choose to support them through your zakat, sadaqah, food provision and more. Let their fasting end with ease through your care.**



## When One Gift Becomes a Future: Umm Husam's Story of Hope

*It had been so long that good news hadn't reached **Jabal Saber** in the Taiz Governorate, in Yemen. Like many other mothers, Umm Husam's days were filled with struggle. Then the news came. She had been selected to receive livestock through our livelihood project.*

*When we surprised her with goats, tears filled her eyes. She held the goats close, smiling through her tears. "It is such a beautiful surprise that will change our lives. For so long, I struggled to provide for my children. Now, this gift will change my life and theirs. It will give us milk, food, and a chance to sell in the market. It is more than an animal; it is a lifeline for our family."*

*When she learned that one of her sheep was pregnant, Umm Husam's joy grew even more. "I will care for this little one as if it were my own child," she said.*

*This simple gift is more than livestock. It is hope in action, a path to survival, dignity, and independence. During Ramadan, gifts like this become even more meaningful, a small act of generosity that can transform a family's future.*



**Support livelihoods through livestock distribution at [zakat.org](http://zakat.org)**

## The Lives You Touched:

**144,172**

lives impacted

**1,500**

livestock distributed

**7,657**

families received  
Ramadan food boxes

# Sudan: Standing With Them in Their Darkest Hour

Decades of internal conflict, political instability, economic hardship, and extreme weather pushed Sudan into a severe humanitarian crisis marked by hunger, malnutrition, and the breakdown of essential services. Entire communities have been forced to flee their homes, often more than once, leaving behind livelihoods and possessions. Insecurity, damaged roads, and soaring food prices have made access to basic nourishment increasingly difficult.

Today, many displaced families live in overcrowded shelters with limited access to clean water and healthcare, while violence continues to claim lives and increase suffering. Since 2007, Zakat Foundation of America has responded by addressing food insecurity through seasonal giving and emergency food packages; providing medical care, including cataract surgeries; offering professional development; and implementing lasting sadaqah jariyah projects, such as water wells.



As the crisis escalates and hunger grows by the day, families face Ramadan while grieving loved ones and struggling to survive. Your compassion ensures they are not left hungry, thirsty, or hopeless. By standing with Sudanese families in their most desperate moments, you deliver the meals, dignity, and strength they need to endure this blessed month.



## The Lives You Touched:

**7,000**

people at 20 internally displaced in Wad Mandi camps benefitted from our feeding centers & water-sanitation projects

**8,000**

people received 1,000 food packages + iftar meals last Ramadan

**200**

food packages reached 1,440 displaced individuals at Shandi (River Nile State)

**4,380**

people, 292 families, received meat packages last Udhiyah

**4,000**

people, 800 households, in Jabal Marra, Central Darfur, received food packages, cooking supplies, and blankets

# Afghanistan: Displacement, Hunger, and the Fight to Survive

In recent months, neighboring governments have intensified the deportation of undocumented Afghan nationals, forcing thousands to return under sudden and often dangerous conditions. Many Afghan returnees are coming back with nothing, no shelter, no employment, and no access to basic services. Harsh weather, widespread unemployment, and food shortages make rebuilding their lives extraordinarily difficult.

At the same time, Afghanistan faces overlapping crises driven by climate change, natural disasters, and food insecurity, making it one of the world's most at-risk countries for humanitarian emergencies. Severe malnutrition and acute hunger now affect millions, worsened by soaring food prices and ongoing economic hardship. As Ramadan arrives, the burden deepens grows heavier, with families struggling to provide even the simplest meals while trying to start over.



Recognizing the urgent needs of deported families, Zakat Foundation of America provided safe transportation, ready-to-eat meals, and clean drinking water, reducing risk, preserving dignity, and supporting vulnerable returnees during their journey. By addressing immediate threats like hunger, malnutrition, and extreme weather, and collaborating with local authorities, we reaffirm our commitment to the resilience of the Afghan people and the power of compassion in times of crisis.



## The Lives You Touched

**18,040**

received food,  
hygiene kits, and  
essential supplies

**50**

buses transported  
thousands to  
safety

**13,750**

bottles of clean  
water distributed

**24,500**

kg of rice and **5,000**  
liters of cooking oil  
distributed

**2,800+**

lunches and  
**2,750+** breakfasts  
served

**1,100**

children  
nourished

# Surviving Displacement: The Rohingya Crisis Continues

Years of forced displacement have left Rohingya families reliant entirely on the generosity of others to survive. In overcrowded camps, every meal, every drop of clean water, and every chance at a livelihood is a struggle. During Ramadan, these challenges intensify, putting children, the elderly, and the sick at greatest risk. Your compassion becomes their lifeline.

Zakat Foundation of America is on the ground delivering lifesaving support to Rohingya families. Through Iftar meals during Ramadan, emergency food packages, clean drinking water, and hygiene essentials, we ensure families receive both nourishment and dignity. Your generosity provides hope where despair is overwhelming, giving children, the elderly, and vulnerable families a chance to survive and thrive.



## The Lives You Touched

**1,588,950**

meals distributed through  
food security programs

**124,856+**

lives  
impacted

**16,655**

Udhiyah meat  
packages distributed



# Ramadan Giving: Answering the Call Against Global Hunger

**A**cross the world, hunger is reaching unprecedented levels. Rising food prices, conflict, climate shocks, and fragile supply chains have pushed millions of families into daily uncertainty, where parents struggle to feed their children, and young lives are threatened by malnutrition. Without urgent support, families face deepening poverty, worsening health, and long-term instability.

Through our **Food Security program**, Zakat Foundation of America delivers lifesaving nourishment to high-risk communities with food packages, hot meals, and essential provisions that combat hunger and malnutrition. In **Gaza, Yemen, Sudan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan**, countless families face Ramadan without enough to eat. Your compassion transforms fear into relief, bringing food, hope, and comfort to their tables.



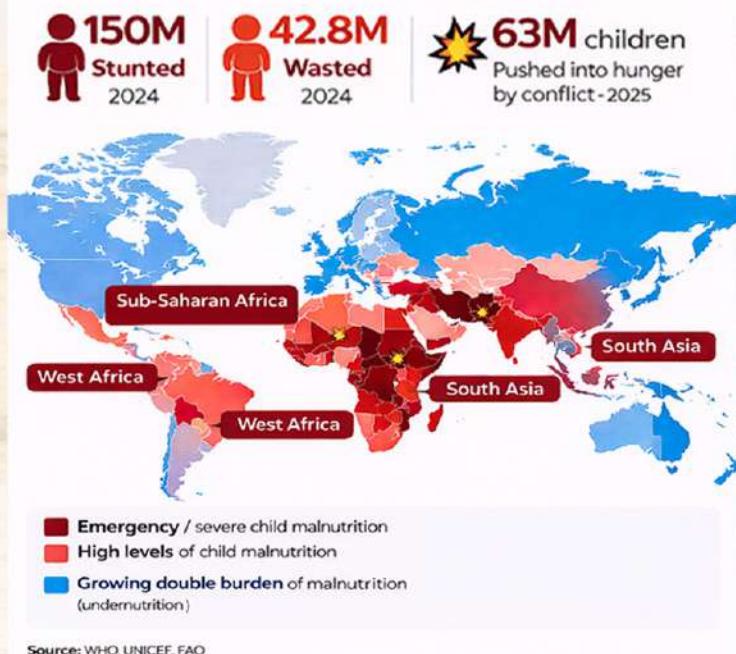
# Malnutrition's Toll: Millions of Children in Danger

The World Health Organization reports that global malnutrition remains a major challenge, with progress too slow to meet international targets. In 2024, around **150 million children under age 5 were stunted, and 42.8 million were too wasted or thin.** Stunting and wasting are concentrated mainly in **Asia** and **Africa**, while conflict and displacement have sharply increased hunger and malnutrition in fragile areas such as **Sudan, Yemen, Afghanistan, and Gaza.** Conflict alone plunged an estimated **63 million children into hunger** in 2025, driving severe food insecurity and malnutrition.

The regions most affected remain **Sub-Saharan Africa** and **South Asia**, where chronic poverty, climate shocks, and conflict deepen food crises. In conflict zones such as **Sudan** and parts of the **Middle East**, acute malnutrition rates sometimes reach emergency levels, and improvements in child nutrition have stalled or reversed.

## Malnutrition in the World

Global malnutrition remains a major challenge in 2025.



**In Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso**, millions of children face acute malnutrition, placing them at risk of lifelong health complications or death. Families struggle to survive amid rising food costs, displacement, and limited access to healthcare.

Children are often the first to suffer; their weakened immune systems leave them highly vulnerable to disease. Targeted food assistance, therapeutic nutrition, and maternal support are urgently needed to prevent a generation from being lost to hunger.



## RAMADAN GIVING



Ramadan 2025:  
*The Lives You Touched*

### BURKINA FASO

**126,000** Food Package Meals

**6,000** Iftar Meals

### MALI

**544,233** Food Package Meals

**30,000** Iftar Meals

**700** Livestock Beneficiaries

**350** Orphan Eid Gifts

### NIGER

**486,000** Food Package Meals

**15,000** Iftar Meals

**700** Livestock Beneficiaries

**100** Orphan Eid Gifts



**Akram** lives in Yemen, a country where millions of children face hunger, poverty, and scarce medical care. When our team first met him, he weighed just 4.7 kg; so tiny it was hard to believe he was nearly three years old. His body was fragile, his skin thin over fragile bones, and though his eyes were bright, they carried the weight of suffering. He could barely move, unable to crawl or play like other children his age. Every day was a battle for survival. In his village, food and medical care are rare, and children like Akram are left fighting for their lives.



Thanks to compassionate donors, Akram was brought to a feeding center, where he received specialized, nutritious food and regular care. Slowly, his body grew stronger. For the first time in a long while, he smiled. For Akram, it was more than food. It was a chance to live, to grow, and to dream again.

Even in the harshest conditions, children like Akram can survive and thrive. With your support, more families in Yemen can face tomorrow with strength, courage, and the promise of a brighter future.

## WHY RAMADAN MATTERS

**Ramadan is a month of compassion, reflection, and generosity,**

but for millions, it is also a time of hunger and uncertainty. When food is scarce, fasting becomes a painful burden rather than an act of devotion.

**Through zakat and sadaqah, Ramadan giving delivers immediate nourishment to families when they need it most.**

Iftar meals, food packages, and nutrition support restore dignity, strengthen communities, and protect children from malnutrition.

**Your generosity offers**

relief, stability, and hope, ensuring families can observe this sacred month with nourishment and reassurance that they are not forgotten.

# Ramadan 2026 Vision: A Ramadan That Endures

For millions of families around the world, Ramadan comes wrapped in uncertainty. Conflict, economic collapse, climate disasters, and forced migration have reshaped what survival looks like.

At the same time, delivering aid has become harder than ever. Humanitarian space is shrinking. Access is increasingly restricted. Assistance is often politicized or monopolized, leaving entire communities cut off from help.

Yet despite these barriers, brave local teams continue to work navigating closed roads, damaged systems, and impossible conditions driven by a belief that people should not be abandoned to hunger.

Your support this Ramadan does far more than provide food. **It protects dignity and shields children from irreversible damage of malnutrition.** It reassures families who are rebuilding their lives that they have not been forgotten.

From emergency food assistance to sustainable, long-term solutions, your generosity helps meet urgent needs today, while laying the groundwork for stability tomorrow.



## When Hunger Threatens Tomorrow, Your Generosity Delivers Today

By midday, the heat at Tawila Refugee Camp is unbearable. **Fatima**, 68, sits quietly, watching her grandchildren endure another day. Before the war, she had a home, a family, and stability.

Then violence reached her village. Armed men killed her son and daughter-in-law, leaving Fatima as the only adult left for three young grandchildren. She fled with them, carrying nothing but the will to survive.

*"There is no work. No income," she says. "Every day, I ask how I will feed the children."*

*Some days there is only water. On other days, a small portion is divided carefully, knowing hunger will return by morning.*

*When our food package arrived, made possible by our donors, Fatima opened it slowly: flour, rice, cooking oil. Simple items, yet lifesaving.*

*"I did not know," she says, "that there are people in this world who care about us."*

*That evening, her grandchildren slept with a full stomach. For families like Fatima's, aid is not charity; it is food on the table, dignity restored, and the strength to face tomorrow.*



# A Blessing That Goes Beyond the Month

Ongoing instability, damaged infrastructure, and restricted humanitarian access have made daily survival increasingly difficult around the crisis regions.

Malnutrition, especially among children and pregnant women, remains dangerously widespread.

Many refugees around the world live in overcrowded shelters and displaced families struggle to access food, clean water, and basic healthcare. In these camps, they face chronic shortages of nutritious food, clean water, and livelihood opportunities.

During Ramadan, meeting daily nutritional needs becomes even harder, particularly for children, the elderly, and those with health conditions.

**\$60**

provides a critical **Ramadan food package** for a week to a family.

**\$180**

provides **needs** throughout the holy month.

**\$500**

provides **essential nutritional needs** for 3 months.

**Impact**

**Immediate nourishment and dignity** during fasting and protection against malnutrition.





# What Your **Gift** Provides

This Ramadan, your generosity ensures families are not left to face hunger alone.

Whether through a food package, a warm iftar meal, clean water, or a sustainable livelihood, your support brings nourishment, dignity, and hope exactly when it is needed most.

## **Iftar (Hot Dinner)**

**\$5** Iftar / Hot Dinner per Person

## **Orphan Support**

**\$50** Monthly Support for One Child

**\$600** One Year Support for One Child

### **Impact:**

Ongoing food, care, and stability for orphaned children and their guardians.



## **Water Projects**

**\$500** One Hand Pump

**\$3,000** One Water Well

### **Impact:**

Access to clean, safe water reducing disease and improving health for entire communities.

## **Livestock (Mating / Breeding Pairs)**

**\$300**/Livestock (Breeding Pairs)

**Impact:** Long-term food security and sustainable income.



For your Zakat related questions and to see countries, visit [www.zakat.org](http://www.zakat.org).

Ramadan Giving

# This Ramadan, Give Zakat That Truly Transforms Lives

**R**amadan is a time for reflection, gratitude, and generosity. It's also a reminder of one of Islam's most powerful pillars: **Zakat**



## Zakat

is not charity. It is a promise that humanity has not been forgotten.

More than just charity, Zakat is a sacred duty, a chance to purify your wealth while lifting those who are struggling. It's about sharing what we have so that others can thrive, not just survive.

At **Zakat Foundation of America**, we've seen firsthand how Zakat, given with care and purpose, can transform lives in profound ways. For over 30 years, we have been a trusted partner for Muslims who want their gifts to reach those who need them most. From building clean water wells to feeding families, supporting community development, providing healthcare, and helping refugees secure jobs, we strive to make a lasting impact wherever there is need.

Our work spans multiple regions around the world. Whether responding to a natural disaster, supporting vulnerable children, or empowering families to rebuild their communities, we ensure your generosity reaches real people with real needs. Your Zakat doesn't just meet immediate necessities. ***It restores hope, dignity, and opportunity.*** It tells people that they are not alone, and that even in the toughest moments, someone sees them, values them, and will stand with them.



Zakat Done Right

- Qur'an-guided distribution
- Eligible recipients only
- Transparent reporting
- Trusted for 30+ years



Choosing **Zakat Foundation of America** means choosing trust, compassion, and proven impact. This Ramadan, let your Zakat do more than fulfill an obligation; let it transform lives. Give today and be the reason a family eats, a child learns, a community thrives, or a refugee rebuilds their future.

Because when your Zakat is given with purpose, it carries more than food, water, or aid; it carries a message of hope, humanity, and connection.

# How Do I Calculate My Zakat?



Zakat is a pillar of Islam and a means of purification and blessing for your wealth.

## 2.5%

**To calculate Zakat**, first assess all qualifying forms of wealth, confirm that they meet the nisab and hawl requirements, and then give 2.5% of the total. For accuracy, we recommend using our Zakat Calculator and consulting the Zakat Handbook, which provides step-by-step guidance.

### What Types of Wealth Are Subject to Zakat?

Zakat applies to growth wealth, including:

- Cash and savings
- Business assets
- Investments

 **Personal-use items**, such as your home, clothing, or household goods, are not subject to Zakat. All zakatable assets must meet the nisab threshold and other conditions before Zakat becomes due.

### Who Can Receive Zakat?

Zakat may only be given to the eight categories specified in the Qur'an. These include:

-  The poor
-  The needy
-  Those in debt and
-  Other eligible groups outlined in Islamic guidance.

### Where Can I Get More Help?

We offer a comprehensive Virtual Zakat Resource Center, including tools, detailed guides, and access to qualified scholars. These resources are designed to help donors fulfill their Zakat with confidence, accuracy, and peace of mind.



### Can I Give Zakat to Family Members?

Yes, Zakat may be given to eligible family members who are in need, such as siblings, cousins, or in-laws. However, Zakat cannot be given to those you are financially responsible for, including your parents, children, or spouse.

### Who Is Exempt from Paying Zakat?

Individuals who do not meet the required conditions are exempt from paying Zakat. This includes those who:

- Do not possess wealth at or above the nisab level
- Do not fully own their wealth
- Have not held qualifying wealth for a full lunar year

### What Is the Difference Between Zakat and Zakat al-Fitr?

Zakat is an annual obligation on accumulated wealth.

Zakat al-Fitr is a per-person charity given before Eid al-Fitr, ensuring that those in need can celebrate the holiday.

They are separate obligations with different purposes and timing.



Zakat Made Easy This Ramadan  
Calculate Your Zakat  
[www.zakat.org](http://www.zakat.org)

# Virtues of Ramadan: The Fast and Its Blessings

Ramadan, in Arabic, which means "to purge by fire", is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. The Quran was first revealed during Ramadan, and every believer is called to fast in recognition of this sacred month (Surat Al-Baqarah, 2:185).

Fasting is not meant for hunger or thirst. Rather, it is designed to awaken moral awareness, strengthen self-discipline, and refine the soul. It connects the body, heart, and spirit, reminding us that our lives are a test from the One who gave us existence. Through abstaining from food, drink, and other lawful pleasures, we cultivate empathy, patience, and gratitude, while drawing closer to God's mercy.

## Fidya and Kaffarah: Preserving the Fast

**Fidya** is offered by those who miss days of fasting for valid reasons such as illness, travel, age, extreme thirst or hunger, or coercion. Each day missed is compensated by providing enough food for one person, roughly \$10 per day today, ensuring the needy are fed while the believer fulfills their spiritual obligation.

**Kaffarah** applies when a fast is deliberately broken without a valid reason. This penance can be fulfilled by freeing a person, feeding 60 poor individuals per day missed (about \$10 per person), or fasting for the same number of days.

*Ramadan Mubarak to you and your loved ones from the Zakat Foundation of America!*

Both fidya and kaffarah preserve the spiritual integrity of Ramadan while channeling blessings to those in need.

## Be the Mercy They Desperately Need This Ramadan

This Ramadan, your generosity ensures no family faces hunger alone. Through your Zakat, Sadaqah, or one-time donation, you provide nourishing Iftar meals, food packages, and essential support to families across the globe. Every contribution, whether via QR code, online, or in the envelope provided, transforms lives, restores dignity, and strengthens communities.

Do not wait, your act of charity today guarantees that the blessings of Ramadan reach those who need it most. Feed a family, fulfill your fidya, honor your kaffarah, and be part of a sacred cycle of mercy.



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