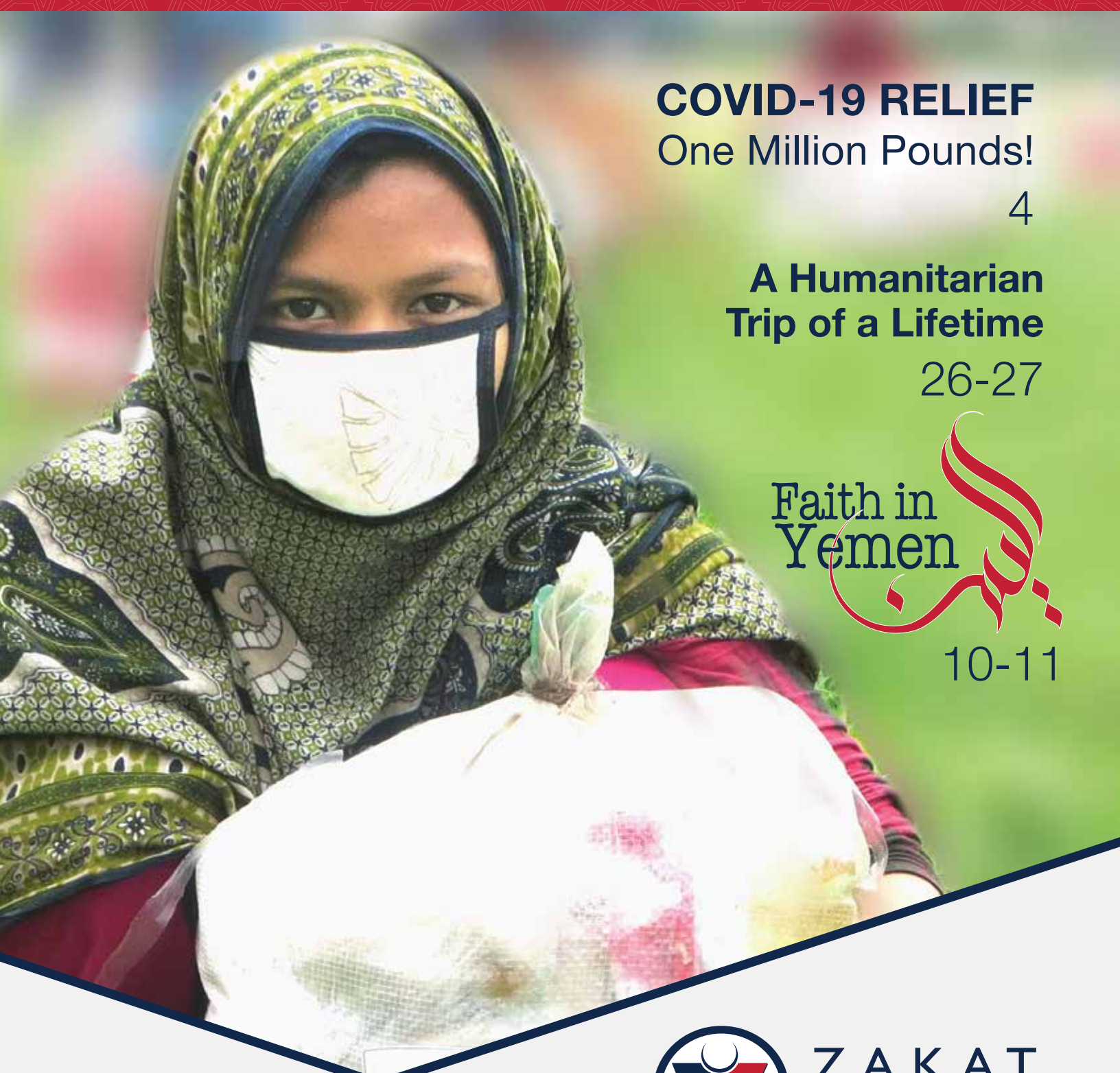


ZAKATNEWS

FALL 2020



COVID-19 RELIEF
One Million Pounds!

4

**A Humanitarian
Trip of a Lifetime**

26-27

Faith in
Yemen



10-11



ZAKAT
FOUNDATION
of AMERICA

The Leader in Empowering Lives Through Zakat



Our Mission

We foster charitable giving to alleviate the immediate needs and ensure the self-reliance of the poorest people around the world with *zakat* and *sadaqa* dollars of privileged Muslims and the support of other generous donors. We believe that people of privilege can “purify” their wealth through charity, and those tried with loss are accorded a rightful share from the resources of the affluent.

Our Vision

We channel zakat into a global vision of social development, and stand as the foremost authority on interpreting zakat as a vehicle for social change.

CONTENT

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR	03
EMERGENCY RELIEF	
One Million Pounds: COVID-19 Relief	04
India: Anti-Muslim Mobs	07
Kashmir: Suffering in Silence	08
Faith in Yemen	10
SADAQAH JARIYAH	
The Ever-Flowing Charity	12
FOOD SECURITY	
Ramadan	14
Udhiyah	15
LIVELIHOODS	
Gaza Greenhouse Gardens	16
Yemen Livestock Gifts	17
ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP	
Orphan Spotlight: Tenant's Story	18
Gaza Orphans Go On A Shopping Spree	19
REFUGEE ASSISTANCE	
Refugee Spotlight: Marlyun's Story	20
Mohammad Ali Safe Houses	23
HEALTH & WELLNESS	
Coping With Depression In The Face of A Pandemic	24
HIGHLIGHT: SERVICE TRIP	
Service Trip to Kenya: A Traveller's Reflections	25
A Humanitarian Trip of a Lifetime	26
ADVOCACY	
Invite from Illinois Governor Pritzker	28
Zakat Foundation Launches Muslim Philanthropy Graduate Institute	29
9 Myths About Muslim Charities	30

Letter From The Executive Director

Dearest Friends,

Assalamu Alaikum, Peace and blessing be unto you.

By the grace of God, as busy as we are, we did not neglect to report our achievements to our beloved donors, supporters, and tireless volunteers. We hope this newsletter serves as a medium to inform you what we have done together.

At the end of 2019, we, along with the rest of humanity, were looking forward to a new year. We all had new plans, new hopes, and resolutions. Yet, in February of 2020, humanity learned of a new challenge called COVID-19. A virus that started in the city of Wuhan, China, spread rapidly to the rest of the world. This event, unprecedented in modern history, shook the entire world. The virus locked down, shut down, and shut in large portions of the world. Ports, airports, and borders were closed. Traveling became impossible. Suddenly, humanity came to understand that we are all far more connected than we realize, even through the air we breathe. We have learned to accept this reality and our necessary responsibility toward one another.

Like everyone else, we began to wonder, what should we do? When everyone is too afraid to even leave their homes, what is the role of a humanitarian organization? We decided that our donors, volunteers, and supporters expect us to stay committed to our mission to serve.

In March 2020, we started distributing PPE to hospitals and clinics in order to help first-responders in Chicago and around the nation. Then, our nation and communities around the world were facing another challenge: hunger and food storage. We began distributing food, fresh produce, milk, and meat to millions of people. In the U.S. alone, we distributed over 1 million pounds of produce and groceries!

During Ramadan and Udhayah, in spite of the challenges caused by COVID-19, we reached communities from Kashmir to Syria, from Mali to Yemen, helping thousands of families and millions of people.

When the innocent George Floyd was murdered by the police in Minneapolis, Zakat Foundation was one of the first organizations to stand with the community. We delivered four 40-foot containers of food, produce and milk. We stayed committed to social justice and our mission.

Again, when hundreds of mothers of unjustly murdered young men were grieving, we were asked to be their voice and organize a march for them. Hundreds of people walked under the Zakat Foundation banner, calling for justice, including our Illinois senator Dick Durbin. Again, we did all of this in accordance with our mission as a humanitarian organization.

Dearest friends, we thank you for your support. Without you, we could not have done what you will read in the following pages.

Inshallah, COVID-19 will pass like any other test. We know that there are always beautiful spring days after a cold, freezing winter. Almighty God is Ar-Rahman and Ar-Raheem, the Most Merciful and Most Compassionate. We, humankind, need His infinite mercy. May God bless you and your loved ones, may He protect you and your loved ones.

Inshallah see you next time.



Khalil Demir
Executive Director



Imam of a masjid built by Zakat Foundation donors embraces Khalil Demir during a humanitarian trip in Kenya.

One Million Pounds, and Counting!

COVID-19 RELIEF

Your Donations Delivered One Million Pounds of Free Fresh Food to the Hardest Hit by the Coronavirus Outbreak. We have been on the front lines of pandemic response efforts, bringing life-saving aid to those who desperately need it: frontline health care workers without protective gear, the poor without food and money, the mentally ill suffering severe depression. Here at home and across the globe. You have helped us save lives. And according to God, Most High, it is as if you saved all of humanity.



Zakat Foundation staff and volunteers distributing 50 tons of fresh produce and milk to Minneapolis' afflicted communities after George Floyd's police murder, bringing hope and healing to the very site where the atrocious attack took place



Since the first days of the pandemic's shelter-in-place orders, swarms of Zakat Foundation aid workers have packaged, trucked, unloaded and passed out more than **402 tons of farm-fresh produce, 8,327 gallons of milk, and nearly 100,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) including N95 masks and medical gloves, in the United States alone.**

Coast to coast — from North Carolina's Triangle Region to New York's coronavirus-afflicted; from St. Louis' refugee hub to Minneapolis' protest epicenter; from the food deserts of East Oakland, Detroit and Chicago to Fairfax Virginia — our distributions went into thousands of hungry hands in the heart of store-shuttered, food-barren, pandemic- and protest-hit cities across the United States, and in impoverished communities and medical clinics around the world including Kenya, Mali, Uganda, Morocco, Pakistan, India, Palestine, Yemen and more.

"This is a tremendous effort, making your Zakat actually make transformation and change," said Dr. Hatem Bazian, chair of the Northern California Islamic Council (NCIC), who welcomed and joined Zakat Foundation's fresh food distribution in the Bay Area's East Oakland food desert. "This is what Zakat is supposed to do."

100% of our Emergency Relief donations go to the ones who need it. Zakat Foundation was the first Muslim charity to respond in the aftermath of George Floyd's police murder; bringing relief, healing, and hope to Minneapolis and many other distressed, low-income, locked down inner-city communities across the United States. As a 4-star Charity Navigator rated organization, not only are we rooted in transparency, but we work tirelessly and diligently to provide aid where it is needed most.

WE WILL NOT LET YOUR UNJUST MURDER GO BY IN SILENCE!

AT KHALIL CENTER, WE EMPATHIZE WITH, HEAR AND WILL AMPLIFY THE CRIES OF PAIN AND OUTRAGE EXPERIENCED BY OUR AFRICAN AMERICAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO PERPETUALLY EXPERIENCE SYSTEMATIC RACISM IN THIS COUNTRY.

IT'S TIME FOR
US TO REALLY
LISTEN TO
WHAT IT FEELS
LIKE TO BE
BLACK IN
AMERICA. JUST
AS THE QUR'AN
INFORMS US
THAT THE
UNJUST
KILLING OF ONE
IS THE DEATH
OF ALL.

**GEORGE, IF YOU
CAN'T BREATHE,
WE CAN'T
BREATHE!**

WE STAND
UNITED AS THE
PILLARS OF A
COLLECTIVE
CONSCIOUS
FOR OUR
SOCIETY! THE
SILENCE
CANNOT
REMAIN & THE
CALLS FOR
CHANGE ARE
COLLECTIVELY
AMPLIFIED.

WE PRAY THAT ALLĀH GIVE RELIEF AND PATIENCE TO ALL THOSE SUFFERING, AND RECTIFY OUR COLLECTIVE SOCIETY TOWARD REFORMATION, REPARATION AND JUSTICE. AT KHALIL CENTER WE ARE COMMITTED TO CREATING AN INCLUSIVE AND SAFE SPACE TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO ARE DISTRESSED OR ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY RACISM. WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU...

This powerful letter was prepared by Khalil Center — a Zakat Foundation project — after the horrific murder of George Floyd. Khalil Center responded quickly to the understandable anger, rage and trauma the Black community as well as other communities across the nation were feeling, offering direct service intervention, increased web therapy, virtual support groups, staff trainings and community-based workshops. Its staff across - all U.S. offices, virtually and on-site, are committed to creating an inclusive and safe space for those who are adversely affected by racism. Learn more about the Khalil Center on page 24.



To save one life
is like saving all
of humanity

﴿ Quran 5:32 ﴾



ZAKAT.ORG



Anti-Muslim Mobs

INDIA

Mob action and homelessness have hit Delhi's Muslims in one of the most dangerous periods of contagion in history. With COVID-19's wildfire spread, there are no more vulnerable populations in the world than the displaced and refugees.

Unspeakably savage riots against Muslims and other minorities in New Delhi have come into the world's grisly view — just as the coronavirus pandemic casts its pall.

India's virulently anti-Muslim BJP government has authorized and unleashed lethal rampages in New Delhi, butchering innocent men before their pleading daughters' eyes, torching mosques, setting pages of Quran on fire "to send a message," incinerating homes to ashes, burning businesses and their inventory.

This has left tens of thousands of Indian Muslims, and Christian minorities, dispossessed, homeless, helpless and desperately in need of food and aid.

Most of these victims migrated to porous makeshift shelters in Mustafabad. And so have we.

Zakat Foundation has deep humanitarian roots in India and has been mobilizing emergency food and financial relief for India's growing hungry and destitute — Muslim, Christian, and all others, regardless of their affiliation, since an estimated more than 100 million Indians now live in food insecurity.

From day one, we've been bringing urgent, nutritional food basket distributions to fortify afflicted families.

"We have operated in India continuously almost since our inception. But we're rushing a huge emergency relief shipment of food and supplies to Delhi's mob violence victims now," said Khalil Demir, Zakat Foundation's executive director, immediately as the attacks began.

Your support has helped us put life-saving food packs directly into the hands of these suddenly destitute families. The food packs contain storable, high-nutrition staples — rice, lentils, oils, masala spice powders, turmeric, flour, sugar, salt, and tea.

Some daily wage workers were so relieved to receive the help and told us they had not eaten a single grain for three days! With your help we can continue this aid and other basic needs for hygiene and utility.



Suffering in Silence

KASHMIR

*I*t was once lovingly referred to as “Paradise on Earth” by a Mughal king. Today, it’s also the most densely militarized region in the world. Located in the northernmost part of the Indian subcontinent, Kashmir is as famous for its natural beauty as it is for the political conflict that’s taken the lives of countless Kashmiris.

Last summer was especially violent. As street protests grew larger to oppose the occupation, Indian security forces responded with fierce brutality. Hundreds of civilians were killed with many more severe casualties. Once again, turmoil has spiraled out of control in the valley.

While the world watches in silence, as it does the atrocities in Syria, Myanmar and Yemen, there must be immediate action taken on the ground to assist the civilian population through these difficult times.

Zakat Foundation of America donors have supported Kashmiris — including orphans, widows, the poor and students in need — for more than a decade, along with our local humanitarian partners.

When calls grew to open a humanitarian corridor into Kashmir last year, Zakat Foundation donors immediately supported our campaign to reach the victims with critical aid. This included storable staples of food, as well as water; medicine, medical and surgical equipment, mental health help, and hygiene kits; winter clothing, blankets, and heating resources; and educational and financial assistance.

Our aid specialists worked out strategies with our local partners on the ground to reach and deliver this vital, lifesaving aid directly to the Kashmiri people in direst need.

“There is clearly a building, massive call for

humanitarian assistance in Kashmir,” said Khalil Demir, Zakat Foundation’s executive director. “And we need to understand that a great part of that is not just physical but also mental.

“We need also to take account of the fact that the long-term imminence of violence in Kashmir has placed people under tremendous psychological strain and now has virtually shut down Kashmir’s economy, health care system, and its schools. These are the overwhelming humane demands we seek to deliberately and diligently prepare an equally massive charitable response to meet.”

Indeed, a Doctors Without Borders’ study of Kashmir’s population found that 45% of people in the valley live with “significant mental distress.” Another 20% — an astonishing one in five Kashmiris — show symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.



Zakat Foundation has been active in Kashmir for years. In 2011, we promoted peace through education by building a brand new high school. In the aftermath of the disastrous floods in 2014, Zakat Foundation of America immediately sent emergency relief. The following year, Zakat Foundation of America provided fresh Udhiyah (Qurbani) meat to Kashmir's poor. This past winter, Zakat Foundation of America aid workers distributed winter kits and food aid.

Often, the oppressors of the world will not only attempt to destroy the bodies of the oppressed, but also dismantle their unique histories, languages, and cultures. If you cannot financially support relief efforts in Kashmir, we urge you to at least take the time to learn more about the current political reality if you don't know details. Many of us belong to narratives of political, social or economic struggle and can easily draw connections to the persecution in Kashmir. Solidarity is a powerful weapon for change, and as stated in Islamic tradition, God is always on the side of the oppressed.

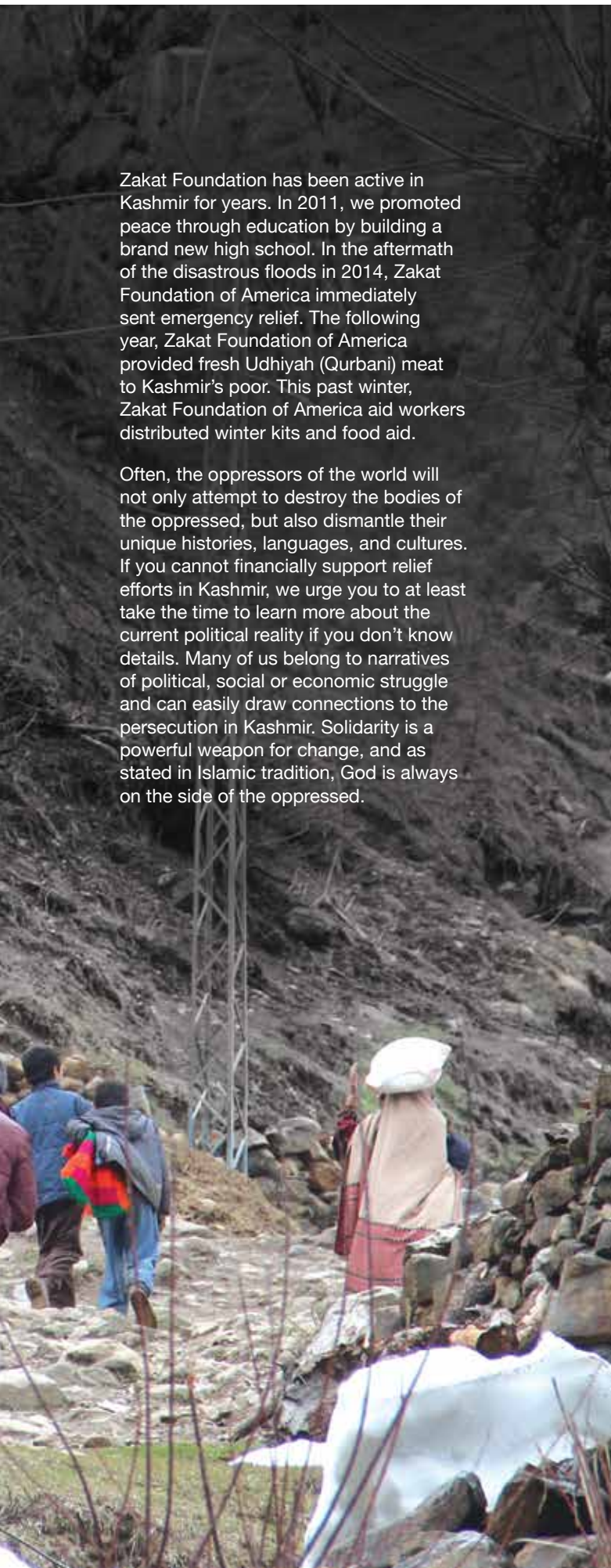


SOMALIA

Because of your support, we have been able to improve everyday life for Somalis by installing water wells, funding emergency medical clinics, treating deadly diseases like cholera, providing emergency food aid during periods of drought and famine, and by distributing seasonal food gifts during the Ramadan and Eid holidays.

The latest of our relief efforts is in the Siti and Faafan zone of the Somali region of Ethiopia, where livelihoods have been severely affected by a constant three-year conflict. It has made water unavailable and therefore destroyed the agricultural produce that people relied on for their livelihoods. This production loss caused mass death of livestock, huge human and livestock migration, and disruption of the economy and food availability. A considerable number of children have been forced to drop out from school and engage in child labor in the nearest cities.

After identifying the most disadvantaged of woman-headed households, orphans, disabled people, and the elderly, we gave them sacks of grains and food relief along with basic household and hygiene needs. They were so happy they danced and sang in gratitude to the donors who sent the aid, and of course in praise of their Creator who willed it to be.



Faith in Yemen



Animal Husbandry enables poor and vulnerable families to generate sustainable income for improving food security, self-reliance and dignity in a time of severe deprivation as the crisis in Yemen continues.

Yemen remains the world's largest humanitarian crisis, now going on five years of relentlessly devastating war. The prolonged war has left over 24 million Yemenis in need of humanitarian help. That is 80% of the population.

About 18 million people in Yemen do not have access to clean water, partly because infrastructure has been destroyed, leaving people with no choice but to walk hours to the nearest water source. Children often bear the burden of fetching water during the day when they would otherwise be at school.

This, along with the disruption of public health services, has led to the wide spread of deadly diseases such as cholera. Yemen's cholera outbreak is spreading at an unprecedented rate and poses a huge threat to the population.

Humanitarian aid in Yemen must go beyond the short-lived, band-aid food basket. It will take economy and infrastructure enhancement to save the situation.

It's with this visionary lens that Zakat Foundation approaches its work in Yemen. To restore sustainable food security to Yemen's people, we give families the gift of livestock — sheep and chickens — to provide a protein-rich diet and to generate surplus milk, eggs or meat to market for expendable income.

Because of your donations, families in Abs, Hajja Governorate, received four goats each in the summer of 2019. Today, all of them report an increase in offspring — now they each have a herd — and milk is readily available throughout the year.

Last April, with your support, we gave nine egg-laying hens and one rooster to each of 150 destitute poor families in Sadaa Governorate and in Bani Alhareth Village in Sana'a Governorate.

We are working with our partners in Yemen to install water tanks in neighborhoods and to truck a continuous emergency supply of clean water to replenish the tanks. This will give people easy access to fulfill their drinking and sanitation needs while we work with local leaders to explore ways to ensure sustainable water provision in Yemen.

We are also providing water filters to protect families living in cholera-infected regions.

There is no reason to feel helpless when there are so many ways you can help!



We have spent nine years, the length of the Syrian civil war, aiding and treating the displaced among the 320 badly overcrowded camps of northwest Syria that house almost a million people. The challenge has only intensified amid the coronavirus outbreak, as there is one hospital bed per 2,378 people, a single ventilator for every 37,549 displaced people, and one lone lab in Idlib that can perform tests.

The conflict has forced millions to leave their homes, has disrupted essential systems such as schools, hospitals or even commerce, and more. As a result, Syrian civilians have no access to items for basic survival. They have limited access to nutritional food, water, life-saving medicines, and more.

Within Syria, 2.98 million are in besieged or hard to reach areas. But we reach them. And we help them. We pack trucks with child hygiene products, feminine hygiene products, temporary shelter aid, food, winter gear and more.

According to UNICEF, over 11.5 million civilians are now in immediate need of aid. Of this, over 5 million are children who need humanitarian assistance now.

The Ever-Flowing Charity

Here is a story that starts with two blind children, and ends with you. May you find it in the Hereafter with your Lord.



In a part of Siaka, Kenya, a God-fearing man found two blind children whose parents abandoned them because of superstitious beliefs. He took them in. May Allah reward him.

Villagers began to take notice, and they would leave blind and differently disabled children with him to take care of, and eventually he worked to build a school for them.

May he be rewarded eternally for all the good knowledge they acquire and spread, inshaAllah.

The children — and the Siaka Special School for the Blind — then faced a different issue. Water.

The God-fearing man did not have the means to fully provide. He did what he could, but providing fresh, clean water was not a simple task.

The blind children often relied on an escort to take them to a nearby river for water retrieval. They would take a jerrycan to and from the river, but the

efforts would not always succeed. It was difficult for the escort to guide more than 10 blind children to and from a river; avoiding motorcyclists became an added difficulty.

On days the escort couldn't make it to them, the children would forfeit bathing and sometimes have to resort to finding a nearby village. Their options were to go to a neighboring area or go without water.

A villager's friend saw the plight and sympathized with the children, and he mentioned the Zakat Foundation of America and how — by God's mercy and permission — our programs include water well construction.

SubhanAllah, that's all it took for Zakat Foundation to join the cause in Siaka.

"This project has saved lives," said the God-fearing man. "Our kids have gone through hell whenever they used to go to the river to draw water. Motorbikes all over, animals and sometimes rain.

These all made it a challenge for our kids. Now they have water and a pump. They can easily pump the water out. They will only need a few days to learn to locate the pump, and each and every one will be walking with a stick to the pump to draw water for themselves. I think they are very lucky to be cared for by you."

No longer are kids bathing and washing their clothes in a river. They now have fresh, clean water for the school, and even for the rest of the community. The water isn't just for drinking either; it's for domestic and livestock caretaking as well.

May Allah reward Zakat Foundation's donors for every sip of water taken from these wells.

"The community members who used to look down upon the kids — who used to shun away the blind kids — now we see them getting water from here," said a volunteer cook at the school.

"They now mingle with the kids. I think this is a great sign and community transformation. The well has shown the community that people from far away appreciate and love these kids. It is a challenge to them; now they have to change. Thank you Zakat Foundation."

Thanks to you, our water sources
BENEFIT 36,500 PEOPLE
every single day.

Dedicate a
water well to
a loved one at
ZAKAT.ORG



RAMADAN

Your Ramadan gifts of warm iftar meals and food packages landed in the hungry hands of millions in over 40 countries and five continents amid a perilous worldwide pandemic. Thank you!



“ Even while the American people are facing COVID-19 pandemic, the love and caring of the Ummah still stands strong. It warms my heart that they remember us. ”

— Khatijah, CAMBODIA



UDHIYAH QURBANI

While obesity is growing, world hunger is still on the rise. According to the World Health organization (WHO) there is more than enough food produced in the world to feed everyone on the planet. Yet, about 820 million people worldwide go to bed hungry each night. Thanks to the generosity of individuals who donate their Udhiyah/Qurbani, on average each year, we deliver 145,000 lbs. of fresh meat feeding more than 200,000 people during the sacred days of Eid al-Adha.





Gaza Greenhouse Garden

Zakat Foundation in partnership with ANERA is helping extremely poor families in Rafah and other cities in Southern Gaza by building self-sustaining family farms. We build a high quality 150 square meter greenhouse unit for each family, and provide all the necessary tools including water tanks, irrigation systems, vegetable seedlings, and training. We are well into the second successful year of our Greenhouse Garden program, which enrolls an additional 20 vulnerable families each year. Each family is uniquely impacted by the siege on Gaza and the lingering effects of war. This is a story of one family in this program and how the greenhouse has improved their lives:

Since he was young, Fadel was musically inclined. When he grew up he became a drummer in a band. “Four years ago I broke my hand and had to stop drumming and look for another job,” Fadel says. Finding employment is a daunting prospect in Gaza. Fadel’s brother let him work on his farm so he could learn the trade. “Despite my brother’s support, I couldn’t make ends meet for my family,” Fadel, a father of six, says.

“Fadel had serious depression until we received the greenhouse,” his wife Linda says. His experience working on his brother’s farm was excellent preparation for operating his new greenhouse. “He spends most of his time in the greenhouse, working to get the most out of it.”

Fadel divides his workday in two, starting work in the greenhouse in the early morning and then returning in the evening, with the help of his four sons. He brings a strong knack for organization to his greenhouse operation, recording the details of his harvests as well as the costs, profits and prices in his notebook. His wife helps



Fresh tomatoes grown in Fadel and Linda’s greenhouse in Beit Lahia, Gaza.

maintain the records. “I took a sales training course, so I can keep a spreadsheet of our expenses and revenue,” Linda says.

“The greenhouse gives me a longer growing season. My tomatoes are ready to be sold today while other farmers are still preparing their harvests. This means I can sell at a higher price,” Fadel said.



Yemen Livestock Gifts

Yemen's farmers have been added to our Animal Husbandry program, which has proven to drastically transform lives from destitute to self-reliant. We launched last year with 40 pairs of mating sheep, and this Fall we will add 1500 egg-laying hens and roosters benefitting a total of 285 of Yemen's most needy families in the Hajja, Sanaa, and Sada'a Governates. All of the families in this program report an increase in livestock, milk, wool, meat, and other protein-rich foods, which have generated a consistent and reliable income for them. As part of the program, families will pay it forward by gifting their needful neighbors or kin cattle birthed by their growing herds to help lift them out of poverty too.



Kenya Safe House

In Nairobi, Kenya, survivors of war-time rape and gender-based violence — girls as young as 13 — find healing and hope at the RefuSHE safehouse sponsored by Zakat Foundation. Not only are their emotional, mental and social needs nurtured, but also sewing and education programs help them create financial independence and set them on their way to a hopeful future.

“ My husband took his life, and left me with seven children. He was diagnosed with HIV and couldn't face us any longer.

Everyone abandoned us because of the stigma around what happened. We were hungry, utterly destitute, and we had no one. No one. I believed for sure we were going to die. I felt like I was drowning deep, deep, up to my forehead, in dark sorrow and poverty.

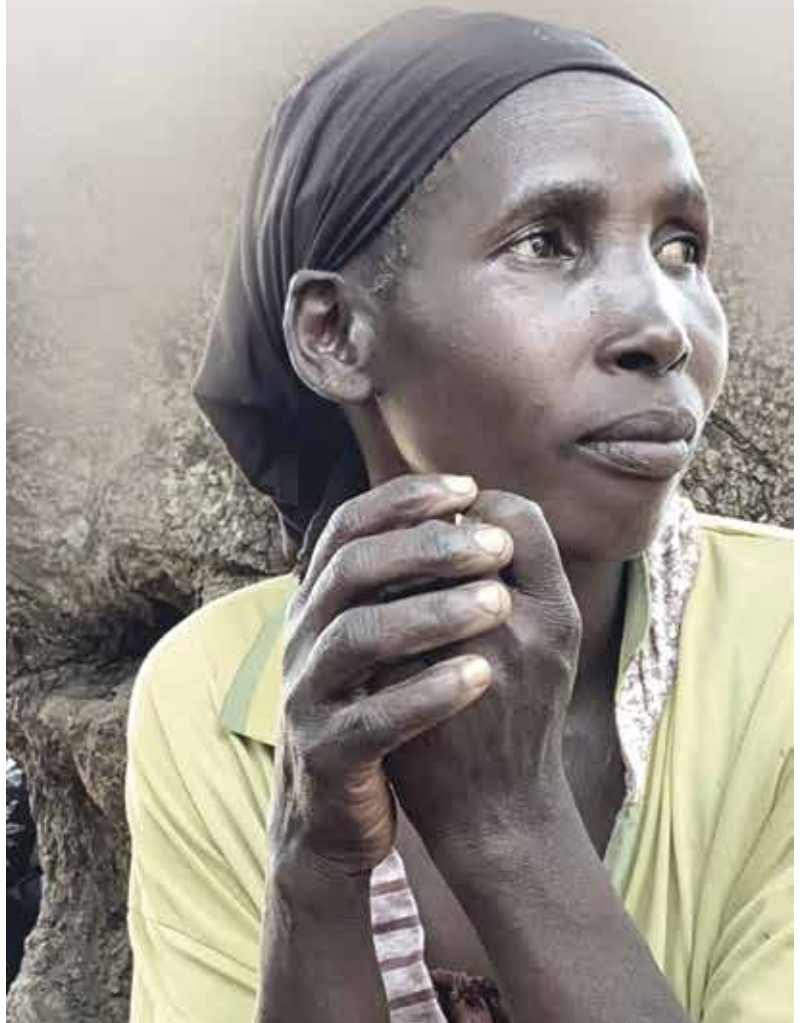
And then you came and lifted me up, up, up.

First, I received orphan care money for my children, which helped us immediately to have food and basic needs. Then you gave me two baby goats, male and female, and they produced more goats. We enjoyed milk and cheese with these, and it brought some income too. Eventually I sold a few goats to invest in a cow. After a while, I sold the cow and invested in land; and now I grow maize, beans, ground nuts, fruit trees, and more. We are comfortable.

What keeps me going, every morning I wake up, is knowing that you are there.

”

— Jamila, KENYA.



ORPHAN Spotlight

Tenat's Story

"I belonged to very poor family because my father died in 2011. After eight months of my father's passing, my mother handed me and my siblings over to my grandmother. She got married to someone else. My grandmother is a retired school teacher and she was living on her pension. She has to pay the rent of our home. She is supporting me and my siblings. She was not able to earn enough to support us and we were living in very bad conditions and no one could help us in this whole wide world."

"When my grandmother got acceptance for orphan sponsorship my whole life changed. I can afford to go to school now and it is a good quality education. I feel confident now I can fulfill my dreams of being a doctor and supporting my family. Zakat Foundation is the main reason for orphans like me to be able to continue their studies."

I received a school bag, books, note books, stationary, school uniform and shoes, and Eid gifts too! With the Zakat Foundation program I take trips, tours and picnics with other children like me who don't have their parents anymore. I especially like the character development activities."

*Story as told by Tenat to Zakat Foundation representative in Pakistan



Tenat sitting with her younger siblings and focusing on her homework.



GAZA'S ORPHANS

Go On a Shopping Spree

with your donation

In the Gaza Strip, every 13-year-old Palestinian child has already lived through and survived three devastating and brutal Israeli military assaults, at age 2, 5, and 7, and have witnessed thousands of lives lost. The possibility of the next attack is always looming and imminent, causing children to live in constant fear. Shellings remain a constant threat, even when there are no full-scale assaults. What is "normal" for a Gazan child is distorted, along with his ability to cope, live a full, meaningful life, and have hope for the future.

Every one of these children featured here has lost a father. But believe us when we tell you that it brings them so much love and joy to know that someone, somewhere in a distant land, sends them a monthly sponsorship gift that secures their access to food, clothing and some degree of normalcy. It is this which gives them the motivation to keep moving on and fighting for their lives and for a future.



REFUGEE Spotlight

Marlyun's Escape from Horror to Hope

Warning: This story has highly sensitive content; please use discretion for children and sensitive readers.

Marlyun lives with her two children in a one-room house in Nairobi, Kenya. As a young Muslim woman she prefers to dress modestly, with dignity and respect for her faith. She wakes up very early for the dawn prayer and prepares her older child for school. She then heads over to RefuSHE, a Zakat Foundation-sponsored program for young refugee girls who escape political and sexual violence. Marlyun puts her youngest child in the Early Childhood Development center on RefuSHE's campus while she takes classes for education, fashion, design, and tailoring. Her outlook toward life is full of faith, hard work, and determination, while using her God-given talents to be successful. You might never guess how she got to be here. This is her backstory, in her own words:



"I am 21 years old from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). I am a survivor of sexual and gender-based violence and a single mother to two adorable girls. I fled my country because of war. I used to live at [a small] village in DRC with my family. I had my father, mother, and two brothers. Our village was made up of different ethnic groups. However, since we were the minority ethnicity, we were often under attack by other majority ethnic groups. They would extort money from my father and every time that he was not around, my mother and I would pay the price by being raped and beaten.

In 2009, there was an incident in which my mother and I were gang raped and as a result I got pregnant and contracted HIV/AIDS. I was so young to understand what being a mother meant let alone contracting HIV/AIDS. My mother had taken me to hospital after I started falling ill and vomiting all the time. When the doctor called us in, my mother was told that I was two months pregnant and that I needed to take a lot of care since I was very small. My mother was so broken, she cried. During the following prenatal visits, I sat with women who were older than me and I used to feel so bad. The nurses would teach about HIV/AIDS, I had very little understanding of what they were talking about. They said all expectant women had to be tested to protect their babies. I tested positive.

In 2010 I gave birth to my first child, a girl who turned out to be HIV negative. It is a joy to behold, as it started dawning on me what that meant and how life changes for someone with a terminal illness. This same year, one of my brothers fled and went to a refugee camp in Burundi for safety. The village where we were living had become very insecure with killings and abductions. I was not going to school, all I could do was take care

of my baby and help my mother with house chores as she struggled to put food on the table. My father also struggled to find jobs here and there.

In 2013, when my daughter was 3, war erupted one early morning between rebel groups. A militia group attacked our house claiming that we belonged to the enemy since we are [a minority ethnic group]. They broke down our front door. My parents told me to hide in the bedroom. I ran and hid in our bedroom but peeped through the keyhole. I wish I could erase the images of that day from my mind forever but sadly they remain ingrained in my head. I watched my father being shot in the chest and his lifeless body being dragged out of the house. My

daughter crying. I immediately came out of my hiding place. I just wanted to see my daughter and I didn't care if I will be caught or killed.

There was a lot of wailing in the village. Many homes had been attacked. All men of the families were killed and women either abducted or raped. My cousin was bleeding and in pain, but I didn't know what to do. She told me that they were also attacked, everyone killed, and she was spared because she had my small baby in her arms. 'Let's spare you because you will be a wife to one of us soon,' one of the militia men told her. That same evening, while I was grieving with my extended family and had my daughter and my brother with me, the village

since the camp was highly guarded.

One day, I noticed that one of the guards was unwell and kept sleeping. I sneaked out of the room through the window, threw my child outside then squeezed myself out. I managed to escape into the forest although the place was unfamiliar. I walked through the forest and finally made my way to the main road. I saw a transit lorry that was carrying goods, and I stopped the vehicle and asked for assistance from the driver who was Somali. The driver said the place was very insecure and prone to hijacking. He gave me a ride and asked me to hide in the back. We travelled for a very long distance; the driver would buy me food and milk for my baby. He would ask me to keep my baby quiet as we passed through border checks since we did not have any documentation.

We arrived in Nairobi in April 2016. The driver asked where he could drop me. I said to drop me where I can find people from Congo origin. I was dropped at a bus station where vehicles from DRC were parked. I stayed at the station for a while before meeting a woman who was a Banyamulenge, which is an ethnic group from Congo. I asked her for help since I did not have a place to stay. She took me to Umoja, where she worked as a housemaid. After a month, she asked me to look for an alternative place. I moved into a neighbor's house, where I stayed for four days.

Every day, I would wonder how my first-born daughter is and if she is ok. I would cry myself to sleep and wake up with puffy eyes and a broken heart. Not seeing my brothers, my mother, and my daughter had a toll on me and my health. Being on anti-retroviral drugs for HIV treatment is very challenging if you have no food, or a balanced diet. As I kept meeting people from my country and village, I would ask about my relatives who fled. Each would direct me to a different area or person to ask, this became tiring. I needed transport and I had no money to do this. I left everything in the hands of Allah to watch over my family wherever they were.



Marlyun can focus on school and tailoring without worry, while her youngest child is performing well and playing happily with other children at the early childhood program.

mother was also dragged out of the house and abducted. I didn't know where they took her. I still hear her voice screaming 'please spare me for the sake of my children, please have mercy on me.' Luckily, my brother had just left for school and my daughter was over at a cousin's house.

was attacked again, a second time! I was abducted along with other girls in our village. I was taken to the militia men's camp, which was in the forest. In the camp, men would take turns to rape us every night. We would be beaten if we refused to comply. I was also forced to do their laundry and act

“ The best day of my life was when I finally reunited with my first child. ”

I stayed in the room the whole day because I didn't know if they were still there or if they had left. I was worried for my daughter; I didn't know if they attacked the homes of my extended family. In the evening, I heard my cousin calling my name and my

as a housewife for three years. As a result, I got pregnant and gave birth to my second child in 2016 through the help of health workers who were working for the militia group in the camp. It was very hard for me to leave

At UNHCR I did my refugee determination interviews and then I was taken to the UNHCR transit center where I stayed for two days before being taken to the Zakat Foundation sponsored RefuSHE safe house in June 2016. The safe house is a great support and stepping stone to help me gain some stability, healing and financial independence. I stayed at the safe house until January 2017. They helped me exit into the community and find a house on the outskirts of the city. Everything began falling into place. I was enrolled in the RefuSHE Girls Empowerment Program. My firstborn daughter was enrolled into school by

“She may remind me of the pain of my past but her hopes and dreams are what keeps me going. I want to see her grow and build a life for herself. Allah gave her to me for a reason and I live to fulfill that reason.”

a well-wisher who caters for every educational need of my daughter to date. Currently she is preparing to sit for her Kenya Certificate of Primary Education examination. I am a happy and proud mother. She may remind me of the pain of my past but her hopes and dreams are what keeps me going. I want to see her grow and build a life for herself. Allah gave her to me for a reason and I live to fulfill that reason.

Now I am doing vocational training at RefuSHE; I have an interest in tailoring. During my free time I make dresses, shorts, Kitenge jackets and I sell them. They also provide me financial assistance every month, which I use to pay rent and buy food.

I am also a Junior Ambassador with the RefuSHE Community Outreach Program. During weekends I conduct door-to-door training to young girls — both Kenyans and refugees — on sexual and gender-based violence, hygiene, and educate refugees on referrals and where they can get help.

Being in RefuSHE has made me a better person. I used to be bitter with life and people, seeking sympathy always and thinking that is the way to live. Through life skills and counseling, I have come to learn that I am the number one determinant of how my life will be. I am the one who will rebuild my life and dreams, the life of my children, and only I can pick myself up after falling.

I usually attend support group meetings where we encourage each other and share life experiences. I have come to learn that self-acceptance, having a positive outlook toward life, and loving myself are the keys to a happy healthy life, not only for me but also for the people around me.”

“I have come to learn that self-acceptance, having a positive outlook toward life, and loving myself are the keys to a happy healthy life, not only for me but also for the people around me.”

and intervention should infection arise. Through the psychosocial counselling team, Marlyun has had various counselling sessions and an expert counselor to assist her to cope with day-to-day life.

Because of the financial assistance, Marlyun has been able to concentrate



Marlyun is now in her third year of our tailoring curriculum. Her teacher says she is very productive and innovative, and among the best students in class, always emerging as the top student at the end of every term. When she is not in school, she focuses on tailoring and selling materials, which help earn a small income for herself and her children. Her youngest child is performing very well. She interacts and plays well with other children.

Marlyun's health has improved tremendously since our case management team supports her to take the medication on time and responds immediately with treatment

on school without any worry of putting food on the table or shelter. Through RefuSHE's advocacy efforts, her case is in the resettlement pipeline and this has given her hope for the future.

She has grown to become a very happy, resilient young woman. Through her role as a Junior Ambassador in the community, she has become a voice for young Muslim girls, who are a minority in Kenya.

Marlyun's message to young girls is to be ambitious, hardworking, independent, and to acknowledge education, as it is a gateway to being successful.

Mohammad Ali Safe Houses For Syria's Refugee Orphans & Widows

What motivates a child to strive and thrive after witnessing war, missiles and bombs raining overhead? After losing a father, an uncle, a sibling? After the trauma of fleeing in the night, hiding underground in the day, holding tightly onto an anxious mother's hand, starving for a week, before finally arriving to the doorsteps of our Safe House?

What is it that restores a child's triumphant energy to work for high scores in school; motivation to compete in Quran contests; creativity to make beautiful art; to sing, dance and laugh with fellow orphans at the playground? What is it that proves to be so powerful a healing agent?



We asked them.

And they told us it is the community, the belonging, the security and hope they find here at the Mohammad Ali Safe House. So appropriately named in honor of the world boxing champion and gift to humanity, Muhammad Ali, who exemplified that no matter the odds and obstacles of oppression and state-sanctioned tyranny, you can not only survive, but thrive and become the Greatest of All Time.

His spirit lives on and his legacy fuels hope for the children and mothers who have found a new home and new beginning in Zakat Foundation's Safe Houses — equipped with clean, modern individual apartment units per family, an art therapy studio, classrooms for after-school enrichment programs, sewing and other vocational training halls, playgrounds, a health clinic, and more.

But above all these amenities, facilities and enriching programs is the togetherness, community, and safety enjoyed by these single mothers and their orphaned children. All made possible solely by your generosity, and God's limitless grace.

Coping with Depression in the Face of a Pandemic

Khalil Center

With the unsettling uncertainty presented by a highly contagious pandemic, the lonely isolation of sheltering-in-place, the painful witnessing of systemic racism — if ever there were a need for mental health services, this year is it. Zakat Foundation is the proud mother organization of the Khalil Center, a professional mental health care initiative that specializes in Traditional Islamically Integrated Psychotherapy (TIIP). The center — with clinics in multiple locations including Los Angeles, Bay Area, New York, Toronto and Chicago — treats about 8,000 therapy patients a year on average.

Since the start of this unforgiving pandemic, Khalil Center swiftly shifted and streamlined its virtual platforms, making services accessible to the growing number of Muslims in need. In addition to the full schedule of web-therapy sessions (with a long, anxious waitlist), Khalil Center's outreach and education programming provided virtual support groups and webinars coaching people on how to manage mental health and family dynamics during the unfolding pandemic, how to cope with anger and grief around systemic racism and police brutality in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder, and other pressing challenges. In the last three months alone, Khalil Center served more than 110,000 beneficiaries throughout North America.



The Khalil Center's diligent reporting proves, in numerical data as well as in qualitative case studies, that this service is saving lives, restoring marriages, and creating sound, healthy human beings, using a fusion of modern and spiritual sciences rooted in the mental health heritage of our Muslim scholars and giants of the past. What would we do without the Khalil Center? It is our sincere prayer that more donors come to value the need and help us to continue supporting this imperative work.

More Exciting News from Khalil Center

New Book!

We're excited to announce a new book publication co-edited by Khalil Center founder and senior clinicians: *Applying Islamic Principles to Clinical Mental Health Practice: Introducing Traditional Islamically Integrated Psychotherapy (TIIP)*. Editors: Keshavarzi, H., Khan, F., Ali, B. & Awaad, R. This pioneer text outlines a structured articulation of an emerging Islamic orientation to psychotherapy. The book delves into the writings of early Islamic scholars to provide a richer understanding of the Islamic intellectual heritage as it pertains to human psychology and mental health. Beyond theory, the book provides readers with practical interventional skills illustrated with case studies as well as techniques drawn inherently from the Islamic tradition.

New School of Islamic Psychology & Research

Khalil Center launched a research department called "The School of Islamic Psychology & Research." The school will advance quantitative and qualitative forms of research and offer training opportunities in Traditional Islamically Integrated Psychotherapy toward formal certification for clinicians and researchers. Through an already established collaboration with Ibn Haldun University and pending partnerships with local academic universities' graduate programs, the school aims to provide a recognized adjunctive concentration in Islamic Psychology at the graduate school level.

Service Trip to Kenya

A Traveler's Reflections

A group of Zakat Foundation supporters traveled with us to Kenya to see our work first-hand. They visited our life-changing programs and met the beautiful communities we serve. We asked one of our travelers, Lila Zegar, a few questions about her experience.

Why did you choose to go on this trip? Did you have any hesitation?

LILA: It chose me. Coincidentally I was at a book-signing for Halil Demir [Zakat Foundation's Founder and Executive Director] and was talking with Donna and Fatima [Zakat Foundation Health Advisor and board member, respectively] and they were discussing this service trip to Kenya. The rest is history.

How would you describe your experience in Kenya?

LILA: It cannot be given justice in words. I can talk forever about my experience but will never be able to reveal its endless benefit and meaning to me. I have never traveled to the continent of Africa. I had tried to imagine what Kenya would look like and how its people would be. From what I observed, Kenyans are a very grateful and high-spirited people. There is so much poverty there, yet so much beauty. Everyone had a difficult story to tell, yet they seemed so happy living a simple life.

Can you share any takeaways from the trip that were meaningful to you?

LILA: Too many to choose, but I would say I found myself reflecting on how and why God chose me for this mission. My answer was waiting for me when we arrived home and so many blessings were suspended due to the pandemic. I don't think I could have adjusted as well as I did without the lessons I learned on this trip. Like being grateful for the big things that we take for granted. The quarantine may be restrictive in some ways, but I was happy to be home with my family, spending time with them, taking care of

them. Yes, things have changed in our social circles. I haven't been able to go to the masjid, or volunteer much. The hardest thing for me is not being able to hug my mom. Yet after being in Kenya and seeing their trials, I know I should be grateful for all the blessings God has given me.

continue living and functioning. It really was a profound feeling; looking upon the young girls in their classroom, I thought of my parents. How they too were forced out of their homes and country at such a young age. My dad was 16 and my mom was 13. My dad was with his brother, but his parents stayed behind in Palestine. It was at that moment that I realized how hard they must've struggled to rebuild their lives in a totally foreign land and how successful they were in holding onto their Deen. I shared my thoughts with the young girls, and told them with conviction that they, too, can do great things. I said, "Just work hard. You will make it!" That was probably the hardest day for me.

Would you do it again?

LILA: A hard yes! I try my best to balance between family and community. This quarantine has held me back some, but I pray that I will be alongside you all in the future to work hand in hand in making a difference for humanity. I love Zakat Foundation for helping people to work toward their own self-reliance.

How has this trip made you a better person? Have you benefited spiritually?

LILA: The people of Kenya were so grateful to us. Though, honestly, I found myself reflecting on who the real beneficiaries are. We can be so oblivious to the pains of the rest of the world that we go through life feeling

purposeless. But, Alhamdulillah, doing this work keeps you reminded of why you're here. I guess serving those in need was instilled in me by my parents and it always gives me the feeling of being blessed.



Were there any especially memorable moments that stand out in your mind?

LILA: We visited a girls' shelter called RefuSHE. These young women were all teen moms who fled civil wars in nearby countries. Most of them victims of rape. I was trying to fathom how they could

A HUMANITARIAN Trip of a Lifetime

"There were 200 people walking through the streets in 90-degree weather, just because of how much they love Zakat Foundation. It makes me understand, as a donor, that Zakat Foundation is an organization to trust, their donations are really getting somewhere, they're getting results."

| Musa Musleh



"It's not just the donations we send from afar. No, it's that we came all the way here, we visited them. Supported them. Stood by them. They see they have brothers and sisters far away in the U.S. That's the most amazing thing. And I felt it in their faces, and in the way they welcomed us."

| Fatima Khalil





"The 10 years of Zakat Foundation in Kenya was extremely evident in the outpouring of love and appreciation, the endless smiles and hugs, and the jam-packed schedule of site visits. 20 hours of footage and 40 hours of editing later, and I still can't express how real and necessary Zakat Foundation's work is."

| Sohیب Boundaoui



"If I could take a trip like this any day, I would not hesitate. To actually see the people we donate to, to be with them, to hear them, it's a totally rewarding experience."

| Mariam Ali



"It's a place where you can feel what's real. It's nothing by posters, it's not TV or advertisement. It's real. It's real, and I'm here."

| Ata Musleh



Zakat Foundation Gets Justice Event Invite from Illinois Governor Pritzker

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker invited Zakat Foundation Executive Director Halil Demir, with other civic and faith leaders, lawmakers, and social justice advocates, to help mark his public pardon for the new year of 11,017 mostly minorities unfairly targeted by

blocked many from getting jobs.

Illinois' landmark expungement legislation does more than make record clearing possible for those with minor cannabis convictions. It makes it nearly automatic,



discriminatory low-level marijuana convictions that did incalculable damage to their lives and families.

"Like Islam and our Prophet, on him be peace, we stand on the side of equal justice and mercy for all," said Demir. "Today's legislation seeks to remedy the unfair and massive application of a law that did disproportionate harm to literally hundreds of thousands, mostly because of their skin color."

"We know that Black Illinois residents are far more likely to be arrested and convicted for marijuana possession than whites," said Ben Ruddell, criminal justice policy director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois.

"Those who were unfairly targeted by discriminatory drug laws can finally get ahead and build a new future for themselves and their families," said former State Senator Toi Hutchinson, an advisor on the legislation, referring to how these misdemeanor offenses

impacting an estimated 116,000. In addition, the law enables enforcement agencies to erase the records of as many as 572,000 whose arrests in the past five years did not result in conviction.

The press conference served as who's-who of sorts for social justice in the state. Pritzker explicitly sought to give "interfaith blessing and moral framing" to the new law with the venue of the public signing at Trinity United Church of Christ, and the attendance of noted Illinois religious leaders strongly associated with social justice. These included our executive director Halil Demir, celebrated civil rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., president of Rainbow/PUSH, St. Sabina's Father Pfleger, and other esteemed imams, rabbis and reverends.

Also speaking at the signing were Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, Cook County Board President Toni

Preckwinkle, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, Alderman Walter Burnett, and Cabrini Green Legal Aide, Exec. Dir. Esther Franco-Payne. Zakat Foundation, an Illinois-based global charity since its inception in 2001, has built a robust network of relationships and strong track record in working for social justice. Under Demir's direction, the worldwide humanitarian foundation has grown into a social justice leader in its home state, where its Bridgeview headquarters remains.

"We seek out the vulnerable wherever they are in the world with the life-sustaining help of our supporters, with both emergency and long-term aid," said Demir. "We're a global humanitarian organization, yes. But we never forget our roots. We're all about human beings, period. We put humanity first."



Zakat Foundation Launches Muslim Philanthropy Graduate Institute

Zakat Foundation has announced the creation of the Zakat Foundation Institute, an independent nonprofit graduate school aiming to professionalize Muslim charitable work and award masters degrees in humanitarian and development studies to candidates from the Islamic philanthropic sector.

The Institute plans to inaugurate its ambitious program this fall – in partnership with the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy – by offering 10 Muslim Philanthropy and Humanitarian Studies Fellowship awards to prospective students with a proven commitment of service to Muslim charities.

“Muslim charitable work has grown exponentially in the last two decades, as has the legion of people who have dedicated themselves to making that happen,” says Halil Demir, founding executive director of Zakat Foundation and author of *9 Myths About Muslim Charities*.

“It’s really past time that we focus a deliberately analytical and reflective eye on what we are doing as Muslim humanitarians, and on the fast-changing and, honestly, daunting environments we are doing it in.”

Halil Demir, Zakat Foundation Executive Director

“It’s really past time that we focus a deliberately analytical and reflective eye on what we are doing as Muslim humanitarians,” he says, “and on the fast-changing and, honestly, daunting environments we are doing it in.”

Demir says Muslim charities need the self-critique and to hone their approaches to Islamic

humanitarianism. He also notes the serious need to raise the professional qualifications and prospects of those who choose this life of service.

“And, frankly, we need to be just as serious about where the Muslim philanthropic industry, if you will, will take its servants in their own personal and spiritual lives,” he says.

To help answer these concerns, Demir has enlisted the independent help of the Center on Muslim Philanthropy (CMP), a team of academics and educational management experts. They’re guiding the Zakat Foundation Institute through the higher education maze to becoming fully and independently operational, and accredited to award graduate certifications and degrees, in just 3 to 5 years.

That’s “ambitious but achievable,” according to CMP’s Rasheed Ahmed, set to become Zakat Foundation Institute’s founding executive director.

Beginning just a month from now, in the 2020 Fall Semester, selected Zakat Foundation Institute Fellows will embark on a one-year program requiring them to complete 18 graduate credits at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. Successful fulfillment will lead the students to a Graduate Certificate in Philanthropic Studies

from Indiana University.

Simultaneously, they will earn a Graduate Certificate in Muslim Philanthropy and Humanitarian Studies from Zakat Foundation Institute. The program is part of the newly established Muslim Philanthropy Initiative at IU’s Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Zakat Foundation will fully fund the Fellowship, which CMP helped establish, and through it will cover all IU tuition costs for required courses. But Kamran Aslam Chaudri, who’s managing the legal implementation of Zakat Foundation Institute’s launch and work with CMP, as Zakat Foundation’s general counsel, says the Institute has begun its own life as a nonprofit independent from the Foundation itself.

“Zakat Foundation initiated the Institute and will support it with grants and hold a reserved seat on its board of directors, but it will function otherwise separately, with its own staff, assets, and direction,” he says.

He notes this kind of initiative is not an entirely new experience for Zakat Foundation, as it previously launched the now internationally thriving Khalil Center, a psychological and spiritual community wellness institution, though as a project of Zakat Foundation.

Since all required coursework for the Fellowship will occur online, with a limited in-person seminar, organizers see no coronavirus complications for chosen fellows, half from the U.S., with their counterparts international students, including several Rohingya refugees living and serving as humanitarian workers in the teeming, squalid camps of Bangladesh.

9 Myths About Muslim Charities

Stories from the Zakat Foundation of America

"Halil Demir combines storytelling with research ... He dispels harmful myths with facts, compassion and humor. The writing and important work it describes reflect the inherent humanity of Islam."

Kay Guinane

J.D., Director Charity & Security Network

If you haven't yet, be sure to get yourself a copy of this critical and timely book authored by Zakat Foundation's founding director Halil Demir. *9 Myths About Muslim Charities* demonstrates how fear and distrust swirl around Muslim charities in American society. This is neither natural nor an accident. It is the outcome of a deliberate and cynical strategy to use a vulnerable, marked population as a stepping stone to rank authoritarian power.

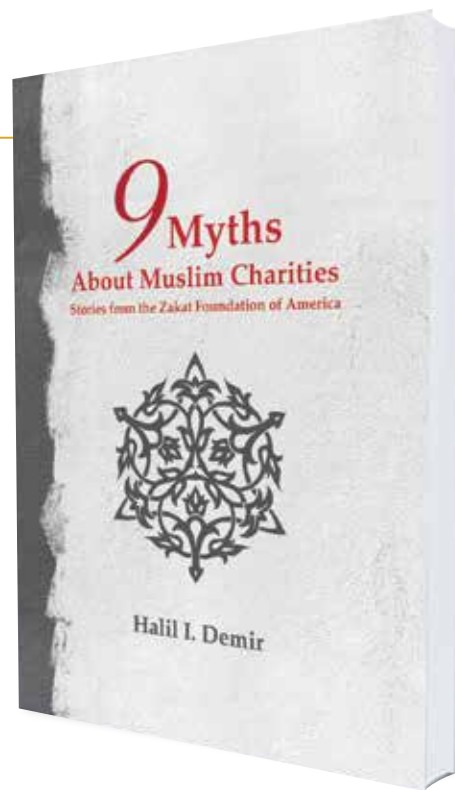
The consequences are far-reaching, hurting American interests and harming millions of the poor and afflicted, not only "over there" but right here at home.

In this book, Demir culls illuminating stories from a lifetime of humanitarian work to spotlight 9 widespread myths about Islam and Muslims, broadcast from behind the veil of security.

A critical read for all who work in, donate to, or concern themselves with the giving world, and anyone who wants to know who the Muslim charities are, what moves them, the daunting risks their people take and the courage and foresight they display, the crucial link Muslim charities now represent in the global humanitarian chain, and the choices that will determine who we are as an American people and as a republic.

Find it at Amazon.com.

To schedule a book tour event in your city contact us at **1.888.ZAKAT.US**



What People are Saying About it

"A critical perspective from the front lines of Muslim American philanthropy that pushes back against misconceptions about philanthropic action in the Muslim community in America."

Shariq A. Siddiqui

J.D., Ph.D. Asst. Prof., Muslim Philanthropy Initiative

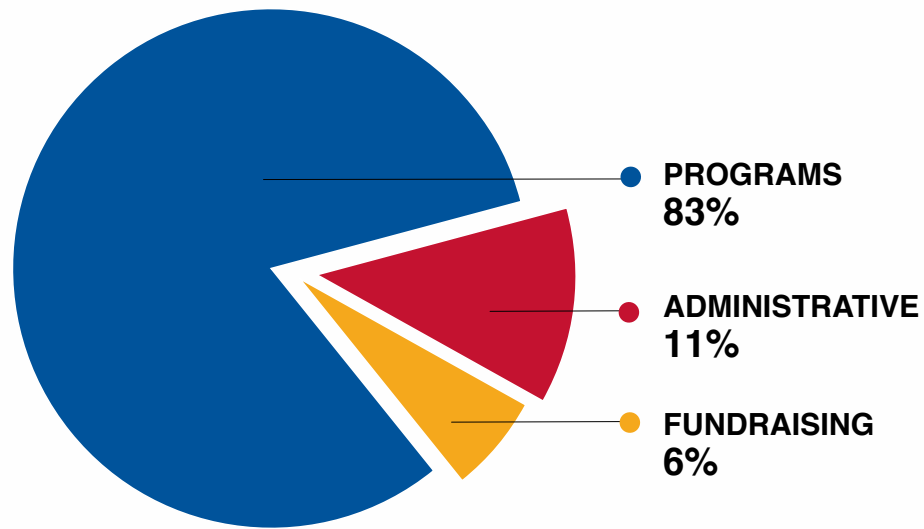
"Had a similar work been available before 11/9, it's quite possible that more Americans would have understood the practice of Muslim charity better. It would have made selling the insidious narrative curated less effective by closures of Muslim is it changed to 9/11 intentionally? and many accused may have received fair trials in the courts."

Rasheed Ahmed

Executive Director, Center on Muslim Philanthropy

"A must-read. Demir dispels myths with facts of not only the work of the Zakat Foundation of America, but how that work is lodged in the faith-walk of Muslims. ... From the Navajo in the Americas to Muslim women throughout the world, the journey through the 9 Myths ... has the ability to move the reader with force lodged in facts. ... If you are young in your journey or long in the tooth, male or female, scholar or casual reader, you will be enlightened and inspired by these myth-busting stories."

Rev. Mitchell L. Johnson, J.D.



As a 4-star Charity Navigator rated organization, we are rooted in transparency. 100% of each dollar donated toward Emergency Relief and Orphan Care go directly to those in need. For all other programs, 81¢ from each dollar you donate goes directly toward those in need.





ZAKAT
FOUNDATION
of AMERICA

PO Box 639, Worth, IL 60482 | 1.888.ZAKAT.US | ZAKAT.ORG



A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. Donations are U.S. tax exempt. ID#: 36-4476244

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Zakat Foundation



BEIRUT IS SHAKEN & we are on the ground.

For the Love
of Lebanon 🌲

DONATE NOW