



ZAKAT
FOUNDATION
of AMERICA

The Leader in Empowering Lives Through Zakat

OUTREACH KIT

2016

WHAT WE DO

Zakat Foundation of America (ZF) is a U.S. based, international humanitarian organization specializing in long-term development programs **empowering communities to stand on their own feet**. Working with the people whom the modern world has left behind or cast aside, **ZF answers the cries for help**, both at home and abroad, from what economists have called the world's "bottom billion": the massive swath of humanity still living in chronic, debilitating poverty.*



*Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

ZF is unique among humanitarian organizations in advancing zakat as a vehicle for social change. The third pillar of Islam, zakat is an obligatory claim on the wealth of the affluent to empower the indigent. ZF channels this egalitarian spirit of zakat into a global vision of social development that transcends national boundaries, and stands as the foremost authority on interpreting zakat as a factor for positive change.

- ZF strives to be an exceptional relief and development organization utilizing sustainable methods, while modeling the spirit of cooperative internationalism that will be essential in an increasingly unstable world.
- As a direct result of its reputation for pathbreaking humanitarianism with a global vision, ZF is rapidly growing in reach and capacity. Every year brings new projects that expand the scope of our work and deepen its impact on the communities we serve.

OUR OPERATIONS INCLUDE:

- Vocational training
- Emergency aid
- Sponsorship of orphans and vulnerable children
- Funding for medical infrastructure and personnel
- Educational training and school construction
- Community economic cooperatives
- Ecological enrichment
- Grants for community enterprises

These programs reach over
40 COUNTRIES across
5 continents and have ZF
representatives on the ground in
hotspots across
the world.

Stats, Facts, & IMPACTS

Since its inception in 2001, ZF has empowered millions of people to recover from disasters and escape poverty by taking control of their own lives.

2003

- Aid & supplies worth \$120,000 helped 7,000 people in Iraq

- Orphan sponsorship program established
- Ramadan meals provided for around 2,000 people in 9 different countries

2001
2002

FOUNDED 2001

2004

- \$120,000 in necessities provided to war-torn communities in Iraq
- Provided \$9,600 to fund 653 disadvantaged students in New Delhi, India

2005
2006

- Over 135,000 beneficiaries in 20 countries provided with fresh, free food for Ramadan
- Reopened school in Pakistan benefits 535 students

Sadaqa Jariyah (Development)

Long-term projects foster self-sufficiency and sustainable growth

Emergency Aid

Providing food, water, and shelter as a rapid responder

Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Protecting, nurturing, and educating the world's most vulnerable children

2007

- Development grants supplied to 35 families in Ghana

2008
2009

- 3 wells built in Somalia benefited 9,000 people
- Hospital in Sudan modernized, assisted over 33,000 patients

Seasonal Programs (Ramadan, Udhya/Qurbani, etc.):

Opportunities for humanitarian gifts to those who need it most during the most blessed times of the year

Social Services

Programming and resources for disadvantaged communities in the U.S.

2012
2013

- Refugee camps in Burkina Faso accommodated 60,000 refugees
- 137 water wells built in drought-stricken communities across Africa

2010
2011

- \$1.5 million of medical supplies and equipment provided to hospitals in West Africa
- Over 350,000 in 40 countries benefited from distribution of meals during Ramadan

2014

- Medical equipment worth \$470,000 delivered to hospital in Bamako, Mali

2015

- Approx. 3,695,057 people nourished through seasonal programs
- \$12.7 million in emergency aid provided to Syria and the Gaza Strip since 2011
- 8,651 students graduated or currently in school
- Over 750 orphans sponsored
- Over 150 water wells installed since 2010
- Provided 6 million meals in over 40 countries during Ramadan
- Sponsored 7,300 Syrian refugee students

A **DECADE**
& **A HALF**
OF

EMPOWERMENT

ZF Programs Uplift Communities Through Zakat

A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

- Emergency response teams are typically among the first responders to arrive at the scene of an emergency, providing opportunities for firsthand accounts of major events as they are happening.
- ZF teams go where many others do not: into hot spots, conflict zones, and the forgotten corners of the world.

TOPICS IN TODAY'S NEWS

Zakat Foundation acts as an information resource for some of today's most pressing issues.

- Development-based Solutions for World Poverty
- The Public Image of Islam in Light of Current Events
- Clarification of Misunderstood Islamic Concepts



Qualified ZF staff are available to provide expert perspectives on a wide array of global issues, including:

- Chronic poverty
- Economic underdevelopment
- World hunger
- Education and educational development in the Global South and for refugee populations
- Public/World health
- Disaster response strategy
- Sustainable socioeconomic development
- The role of the modern NGO
- Legal and technical issues in non-profit operations

The sheer volume of available information has put a new premium on commentary that cuts through the noise to get at what really matters.





HALIL DEMIR

Executive Director

Halil Demir founded Zakat Foundation with a group of Muslims driven to improve the lives of the poor worldwide in 2001. Since then he has overseen the establishment of schools, orphanages, vocational training programs, and health clinics around the world; the construction of water wells, mosques and community centers in Africa, U.S. cities and the Navajo reservation; the delivery of millions of dollars in emergency humanitarian aid to survivors of both natural and man-made catastrophes. Mr. Demir has represented ZF on television and radio, including National Public Radio and Public Radio International, and holds a degree in sociology and advanced degrees in history and non-profit management.

**He may be reached at halil@zakat.org,
or (708) 233-0555.**



BEVERLY PEREZ

General Counsel
and Director of
Humanitarian Affairs

Beverly Perez is a seasoned in-house attorney who advises directorial boards and executive management of leading international nonprofit organizations on a broad range of issues, including 501(c)(3) and (c)(4) tax requirements, NGO operations, U.S. sanctions programs and export controls, corporate governance, charitable solicitations and contracts. She currently serves as General Counsel and Director of Humanitarian Affairs at Zakat Foundation of America. She has previously served as Assistant Corporate Secretary at the American Red Cross, Corporate Counsel and Board Secretary at Islamic Relief USA, Associate Corporate Counsel at International Medical Corps, and Staff Attorney at Greenpeace. Beverly has a J.D. and M.A. in International Affairs from American University in Washington, DC.

**She may be reached at beverly@zakat.org,
or (202) 413-5925.**



JAMIE MERCHANT

Public Relations
Coordinator

Jamie Merchant is a communication analyst specializing in messaging solutions and press relations for globally active non-governmental organizations. He acts as the primary liaison between Zakat Foundation of America and the news media and can provide informed commentary on a number of issues related to its operations, including the potential for innovation in contemporary humanitarian work, the social impacts of sustainable development, and the role of the NGO in a changing global economy. He has worked previously as a media strategist and economic policy consultant for nonprofit organizations and holds a Ph.D in Rhetoric from Northwestern University.

**He may be reached at jamie@zakat.org,
or (708) 233-0555.**

ZAKAT.ORG | 1-888-ZAKAT-US

Phone+1-888-925-2887 | Fax: +1-708-233-0339

PO Box 639 | Worth, IL 60482

Zakat Foundation is a 501(c)(3)

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