

FALL 2009

ZAKATNEWS

Fostering Charitable Giving for Those in Need



ZAKAT
FOUNDATION
of AMERICA



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For information about our organization or for questions about how you can support the efforts described in this newsletter, please contact us:
Zakat Foundation of America, P.O. Box 639, Worth, IL 60482
tel: 708-233-0555 | toll free: 1-888-ZAKAT-US (1-888-925-2887)
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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Assalamu alaykum, Peace be Upon You.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone of you: donors, supporters, and volunteers. Through the Mercy of Allah (swt), our Creator, our Helper, our Protector, and your continuous support, we were able to reach hundreds of thousands of people during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Thank you! We thank you because, as the Hadith of the Prophet says, “He who does not thank people, does not thank Allah (swt).”^{*} We are grateful to our Lord and thank you for your support. We are humbled.

In one mosque where Zakat Foundation held a Ramadan/Orphan Fundraiser, our brother imam was so surprised by the number of orphans who were sponsored within minutes by the generous community. He told the worshipers, “SubhanAllah, such a blessing this night, it seems to me that it is Laylatul Qadr (The Night of Power).” Only Allah (swt) knows if that night was truly Laylatul Qadr but I know that this night of blessing brought tears to our eyes! Thank you!

While you are reading this newsletter, we will be only a few days away from Eid ul-Adha, inshaAllah. Eid ul-Adha means many Muslim communities receive fresh meat through Udhiya/Qurbani sacrifices. As you know, wars and natural disasters are ongoing in most of the regions where we are serving. Afghanistan, Chechnya, Palestine, Kashmir and Somalia: millions of widows, orphans and poor are waiting to receive wholesome, fresh meat. This meat will bring joy to their families during the Blessed Days of Eid. Eid ul-Adha is a good time for you and for us to help make this happen inshaAllah.

We try to purchase animals for Udhiya/Qurbani as early as possible to avoid price increases that occur in Muslims counties just before Eid. That way, you are given the opportunity to double your Udhiya and reward! The livestock is purchased locally and is well maintained until the first day of Eid, when we locally slaughter and distribute fresh meat. I know that some of you will perform the Hajj-Pilgrimage this year. I ask Allah (swt) to accept your Hajj and to cleanse your sins, purify your soul and rejuvenate your spirit full of iman and taqwa. May you come back happy and healthy to your family inshaAllah.

I ask you, while at Hajj, please keep Zakat Foundation in your prayers. We need your dua as much as we need your financial support.

Wa Salaamu Alaykum,
Khalil Demir
Khalil Demir, Executive Director

^{*}Narrated by Abu Hurayrah, compiled by Ahmad and Tirmidhi.

EMERGENCY RELIEF



Zakat Foundation Responds to Pacific Rim Earthquake Emergency Relief for Indonesia and Samoa

Zakat Foundation has responded to the devastating earthquake that struck the Pacific Rim, greatly affecting South Sumatra, Indonesia and American Samoa on Wednesday and early Thursday, September 30 and October 1, 2009. Our team was on the ground in Padang, Indonesia within hours of the second tremor distributing aid to hundreds of survivors. Zakat Foundation’s immediate Emergency Relief in the affected area was aimed at providing survivors with food, water and shelter.

Those who have survived the earthquakes are still coping with heavy rainfall and seriously compromised local infrastructures; bridges have been rendered inoperable and electric grids are down leaving many survivors without power.

Right now, the people of South Sumatra, Indonesia and Samoa need clean water, food, and fuel, as well as hygiene and medical supplies. At this critical time, they find themselves in need of the generosity and compassion of their brothers and sisters around the world.

The recent seismic activity in the Pacific Rim, as well as torrential rains, has also caused flooding and destruction to the islands of the Philippines. Zakat Foundation’s partners are still on the ground delivering aid and we intend to play as viable a role in the recovery efforts as during the upcoming months.



Zakat Foundation Extends its Ramadan Program to Flood Victims in Gambia

During the Month of Ramadan, the West African nation of Gambia experienced some of the heaviest rainfall in two years. Flash floods roared through villages and towns when rivers overflowed in Basse, Janjan-bureh and Mansakonko. Zakat Foundation extended its Ramadan food program to victims of the Gambia floods, providing hot Iftar-dinners, food packages and clean water to hundreds of families.

The borders of this small African nation follow the meandering Gambia River and its tributaries. Many farms have been destroyed and livestock carried away by floodwaters in the most affected areas inland. The floodwaters have also contaminated clean water supplies, increasing the need for development projects. Zakat Foundation will continue its work in Gambia during the 2009 Udhiya Season and will assess further sustainable development projects to help the people of Gambia to lift themselves out of the hardships caused by the recent floods.



> Gambia has experienced the worst flooding in years.



Share the Joys of Eid by Sharing with Those in Need

Last year, despite the looming concerns of financial meltdowns and severe price hikes, Zakat Foundation’s donors and supporters were as generous as ever, intent on sharing with some of the poorest communities in the world during hard times. It was through the Mercy of Allah (swt) that Zakat Foundation was able to distribute wholesome, fresh meat to more than 63,000 impoverished families in 35 countries around the world. This year, Zakat Foundation will be expanding its Udhiya/Qurbani Seasonal Program to the disaster-stricken towns of South Sumatra, Indonesia, as well as flooded communities in the Philippines and The Gambia. As families in these and other needy communities struggle to recover after natural or manmade disasters, the sacrifice of Udhiya/Qurbani is a chance for Muslims around the world to share a moment of happiness and solidarity.

Ayesha narrated that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, “There is nothing dearer to Allah during the days of Qurbani than the sacrificing of animals. The sacrificed animal shall come on the Day of Judgment with its horns, hair, and hooves (to be weighed). The sacrifice is accepted by Allah before the blood reaches the ground. Therefore, sacrifice with an open and happy heart” (Tirmidhi).

In the countries where we slaughter, Zakat Foundation buys livestock from local farmers before the price of animals increases for the Udhiya season. Use the chart to find the list of countries where Zakat Foundation will be performing Udhiya/Qurbani sacrifices this year. Also, on this blessed holiday, share the joy and festivities with an orphan or needy child by donating an Eid gift. These gifts can be distributed in any country where Udhiya/Qurbani is being performed.



COUNTRY	PRICE
Afghanistan	\$80
Azerbaijan	\$80
Bangladesh	\$65
Burkina Faso	\$65
Chechnya	\$95
China	\$85
Egypt	\$200
Ethiopia	\$60
Gambia	\$65
Ghana	\$65
India	\$65
Indonesia	\$85
Iraq	\$100
Mali	\$65
Mauritania	\$65
Niger	\$65
Pakistan	\$80
Palestine	\$280
Palestinian Refugees (Lebanon/Jordan)	\$200
Philippines	\$65
Somalia	\$60
Sri Lanka	\$65
Sudan	\$80
Syria	\$180
Tajikistan	\$65
Thailand	\$70
United States	\$170
EID GIFT	\$25





More than 200,000 Benefit from ZF’s Ramadan Program 2009

Zakat Foundation’s donors proved that despite the grim global economic atmosphere, Ramadan is a month to intensify deeds and give generously to the needy. During our Ramadan 2009 campaign, more than 200,000 impoverished men, women, and children in 30 countries benefited from hot iftar-dinners, non-perishable food packages, Fitrah distribution and Eid Gifts. Even with ever-rising food prices, Zakat Foundation is dedicated to providing the best quality food to beneficiaries and our supporters have helped us reach some of the poorest communities in the world.

From war-torn Darfur and Gaza, to the slums of India and dusty farms of Niger, those who struggle for daily meals were able to break their fasts in comfort with family and community.

It is from Allah’s (swt) Mercy that Zakat Foundation’s Ramadan Program has grown to benefit more poor and struggling communities every year. Please refer to the chart below for the breakdown of beneficiaries by country.



COUNTRY	AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED
Afghanistan	\$ 9,100.00
Albania	\$ 4,000.00
Azerbaijan (Chechen Refugees)	\$ 7,500.00
Bangladesh	\$ 30,000.00
Brazil	\$ 3,355.00
Burkina Faso	\$ 5,000.00
China	\$ 6,000.00
Egypt	\$ 5,000.00
Ethiopia	\$ 5,000.00
Gambia	\$ 5,000.00
Ghana	\$ 11,900.00
India	\$ 6,000.00
Indonesia	\$ 4,000.00
Iraq	\$ 5,000.00
Kosovo	\$ 5,000.00
Lebanon (Palestinian Refugees)	\$ 20,250.00
Macedonia	\$ 3,000.00
Mali	\$ 3,000.00
Mauritania	\$ 5,000.00
Pakistan	\$ 25,400.00
Palestine	\$ 25,000.00
Thailand	\$ 5,000.00
Phillipines	\$ 6,500.00
Somalia	\$ 5,000.00
Sri Lanka	\$ 10,000.00
Sudan	\$ 5,000.00
Syria	\$ 5,000.00
Tajikistan	\$ 5,000.00
Turkey	\$ 5,000.00
USA (Muslim Refugees/Needy Families)	\$ 38,000.00
Orphan Sponsorship	\$ 91,250.00
TOTAL	\$ 369,255.00





Philippines Eid Celebration

Reaching out to the Needy in an Overlooked Community

Zakat Foundation sponsored an Eid ul-Fitr celebration and food distribution for needy Filipino Muslims living in the city of Iligan, Mindanao Island, Philippines. Zakat Foundation was contacted by a member of the US based Filipino diaspora community about sponsoring the Eid celebration as a way to give needed assistance to poor Filipino Muslims during the Eid while also fostering a sense of good will between the minority Muslim community and their Christian neighbors who would participate in packing the gift packages.

Partnering with members of the Iligan South Rotary Club on the Island and a local leader from the Muslim community, Zakat Foun-

dation provided a final iftar dinner for 200 people at the end of the last day of Ramadan fasting and then provided 100 needy Muslim families with Eid gift packages containing basic food stuffs and hygiene products. Such a gesture was remarkable enough to attract the attention of local TV media and offered welcome relief to an often marginalized Muslim minority community just in time for the Eid.

Zakat Foundation was honored to have been able to reach out to the needy amongst the Filipino Muslim community of Iligan City and hopes to continue to be a resource for them in the future.



Ramadan Relief

Zakat Foundation Continues Cyclone Aila Relief Work in Bangladesh

The destruction and human hardship caused by natural disasters demand the world's attention. In May 2009 the heavy winds, rain and storm waters of Cyclone Aila struck the south-west coast of Bangladesh causing a level of destruction that affected the lives of nearly 2.3 million people.

Zakat Foundation's Bangladesh Office responded to the immediate distress felt by those who lost their homes and livelihoods by providing more than a thousand families with relief packages that included essential food items, fresh water, medicines and other necessary personal items.

While the world's attention began to turn towards other disasters, Zakat Foundation intensified its Ramadan Food Distribution Program in affected areas of coastal Bangladesh. In light of any natural or manmade disasters, the humanitarian initiative of sustainable development projects must coincide with emergency relief distribution to provide victims with hope for the future.

Along with daily, hot iftar-dinners and food package distribution, in the cyclone-ravaged towns of the Shatkhira District, where over 500,000 have been affected by the storms, Zakat Foundation's Bangladesh Regional Office began to implement a series of agricultural and disaster preparation skill-training sessions, as well as Quran classes. Survivors received intensive instruction in poultry raising, homestead gardening and shrimp cultivation. Those who lost their



source of livelihood when Cyclone Aila sent waves crashing now have a chance to learn a sustainable skill to help them survive during these trying times, inshaAllah.

With funds provided by our generous donors, Zakat Foundation was also able to build 40 tube wells to give the community access to water for drinking and bathing, as well as 40 latrines to improve sanitation in the area and reduce the occurrence of water borne diseases. By the Grace of Allah SWT 800 families will now have access to water and some 80 families will have access to sanitary latrines.

The Need for Sustainable Development in Bangladesh

Cyclone Aila the latest in a series of cyclones and torrential weather that has rocked the coasts of Bangladesh over the last decade. Bangladesh is one of the world's most densely populated countries and scientists see it as the nation that will be hardest hit by the consequences of climate change. With its low-lying delta region, Bangladesh is becoming increasingly prone to flooding and cyclones.

Now, months after Cyclone Aila, there are still no clean water sources in many coastal villages. The government of Bangladesh has appealed for 5 billion dollars from the international community to help counter the threat posed by climate change, to develop flood tolerant crops and to build drainage systems and other infrastructures to enhance preparedness for frequent natural disasters that flow from extreme weather.

These developments could save the lives of millions: Atiq Rahman, executive director of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, says that rising sea levels and accelerated glacier melt could lead to



17 percent of Bangladesh's landmass—home to 35 million people—to be permanently submerged in coming decades.





Building Skills for Self-Reliance

Zakat Foundation Establishes a Sewing School in Gaza

In the summer of 2009, Zakat Foundation began a sewing school in the war-torn, but resilient area of Gaza, Palestine. With the funds that our donors have designated towards the promotion of education and skill training, Taal al-Hawa Women's Training Course opened its doors for thirty women who range in age from 19 to 25 currently living in Gaza. The women commit to three hours a day of classes for six days a week in either embroidery or general sewing lessons that are taught by master teachers.

As the women develop their skills, the garments they produce in class are sold with the proceeds of the sales going to the student-sewers. It is with the intention of bringing some relief to the strained financial situations in which many of the women and their families find themselves that most of them have enrolled in the sewing course. Um Hatim, the mother of 11 children, says that her husband's weak health and multiple operations have made him un-



able to work to support their large family. She is motivated to learn sewing in order to help her family in this precarious time.

Fatma al-Jarusha also hopes to alleviate some of the financial strain on her family upon her completion of the four month training course. Her husband is currently unemployed due to the financial crisis in Gaza leaving her and their six children without access to a stable income. The classes at the Zakat Foundation sewing school teach the women practical, useful sewing and embroidery lessons that will enable them insha'Allah to produce both the distinct traditional garments of the area as well as common clothing for women, men, and children. Zakat Foundation currently runs a similar sewing center in Ghana and is supporting the creation of another in Kenya. We believe that it is through skill training and multi-age educational opportunities that families can be assisted in lifting themselves out of poverty.

Back to School

Zakat Foundation's Backpack Program Equips Students for Success

This year, the Holy Month of Ramadan fell right in the heart of back-to-school season and as children in the Chicagoland area prepared to start another school year, Zakat Foundation held its 7th Annual Backpack Distribution. Partnering with local police departments and Project Downtown, Zakat Foundation handed out more than 500 backpacks filled with school supplies to needy elementary school students in and around Chicago. Project Downtown Chicago organizer, Mike Swies, coordinated a distribution in one neighborhood. "I want to send our most heartfelt thanks to Zakat Foundation for donating backpacks to the East Garfield Park neighborhood of Chicago. The children in this community are incredibly grateful and excited for the new school year."

Zakat Foundation's Backpack Program is a way through which generous donors have contributed tens of thousands of backpacks for poor school children worldwide. It continues to expand in the United States as more families struggle with basic necessi-



ties, leaving little room in their budget for school supplies. Started in 2001 under the slogan "To Kids, From Kids, With Love," this program promotes hands-on humanitarian work for all ages. Children are encouraged to donate backpacks that they have personally filled with school supplies to send to children overseas. Donors also have the option of paying the cost of a backpack that is then stuffed at Zakat Foundation headquarters by young volunteers.

The Backpack Program is just one of Zakat Foundation's education initiatives in the United States and abroad. Zakat Foundation believes that education is a human right through which communities become equipped to better their social and economic conditions.

Education in Afghanistan

War and Instability in Afghanistan Won't End Until there's a Better Future for Youth

At one time the educational system in Afghanistan was good enough to attract students from other parts of Asia and the Middle East, but a slow decline set in after the Soviet invasion of 1979.¹ The subsequent Taliban rule and initial US bombing and invasion helped to put the Afghani education system on its deathbed.

Although the war in Afghanistan is costing millions of dollars a day to sustain, eight years of occupation has not improved the situation of the average Afghani citizen. Today Afghanistan's education system is said to have some of the "lowest educational indicators in the world."² This means that the system is practically in ruin with only a small amount of functioning schools and universities that are often understaffed and housed in dilapidated buildings.

If the people of Afghanistan are going to have a fair chance for a stable future, quality education is going to provide that future. This is why Zakat Foundation has reconstructed primary schools and assists higher education students in completing their educations. Poor university students need consistent support to ensure their successful graduation. Students can attend public universities for free, but many, including those students that Zakat Foundation supports, face tremendous difficulty in actually attending classes. Students from stressed financial situations often have difficulty paying the additional costs that come with attending university, such as room and board, school supplies, clothing and even transportation costs. It is for this reason that Zakat Foundation, through our local partner in Afghanistan, is supporting almost 200 students at the various universities in Afghanistan. This is an ongoing program for which we continue to accept donations because the need does not cease. With each school year, more poor students in Afghanistan struggle to bridge the gap between their needs and the available resources. The following are stories of three students who have benefitted from Zakat Foundation's Education Program in Afghanistan:

Muhammad Yasin

Muhammad Yasin is a twenty-three year old third-year student at Kunduz Educational Institute. Muhammad's family is not able to help him with the expenses of being a student. His father, who for many years was sole breadwinner for six children (three have since married), is now too old to work and does not receive retirement benefits, as these are not presently offered by the Afghani government. Currently, all of Muhammad's living expenses are covered by the donations of generous Muslims. This support allows him to focus on his studies and to someday, insha'Allah, have a successful career that will allow him to contribute to the development of his country and to help his family.

Mir Wais

Mir Wais is a twenty-six year old student originally from Badakhshan, Afghanistan. He is from a farming family of twelve children that



migrated to Mezari Sherif when he was seven years old after losing all of their worldly possessions due to outbreaks of war in their area. Despite such difficulty, Mir graduated from the Bakhtor secondary school in Mezari Sherif and was accepted to study English

Literature at Takhar University. He is now in his third year and lives in a student apartment building established by Zakat Foundation and its local partner. The funds given by Zakat Foundation donors go towards providing students like Mir with living quarters and basic amenities. But there is still more that can be done. For example, students now sleep on cushioned mats on the ground. We hope that additional donations will allow us to provide them with standard sized beds and other facilities that will permit them to comfortably focus on their studies.

Muhammad Isa

Muhammad Isa, who is twenty-one, was excited to be accepted to study Law at Balkh University but could not imagine how he would afford the expenses of student life. As the eldest son in a poor family of nine children from Kunduz, Afghanistan, he had no expectation of getting help from his family. Still, he could not give up his dream of a college education and so he decided to register at the University even though he had no means to pay for housing or other necessities. By the Grace of Allah, he met someone at registration who told him about the assistance for housing and school expenses for underprivileged students that Zakat Foundation helps fund along with its local partner. He applied for the services and was accepted due to his sincere need.

Making education accessible to the average person in Afghanistan is about more than constructing buildings or installing computer facilities. The realities of poverty and strained family circumstances must be taken into account. The stories of these three young men, who are just a small sampling of the students who have benefited from the generosity of Zakat Foundation's donors, show that it is possible to truly make education accessible to Afghanistan's disadvantaged. For sums of money that seem insignificant to a person living in the West the trajectory of an entire family's life, perhaps even that of a country, can be transformed by Allah's (SWT) permission.

1. BBC World Service Case Study: Education in Afghanistan. URL: http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/people/features/ihavearightto/four_b/casestudy_art26.shtml
2. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ministry of Education website. URL: http://www.moe.gov.af/news/m/canada_increases_support_for_edu.htm

Country Profile:
Ghana, West Africa



COUNTRY INFORMATION (CIA Factbook, 2009)
Independence (from British control): 1957
Land Area: 239,460 Square Kilometers (Slightly smaller than Oregon)
Climate: Tropical
Agricultural Land Usability: 18%
Natural Hazards: dry northeastern winds cause droughts annually
Environmental issues: soil erosion, water pollution, low supply of drinkable water

THE PEOPLE (CIA Factbook, 2009)
Population: 22,409,572
Infant Mortality Rate: 55 deaths / 1000 live births
Life Expectancy: 59 years
Major Diseases: very high risk of bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, malaria, yellow fever, schistosomiasis
Religions: 63% Christian, 16% Muslim, 21% various tribal religions
Literacy Rate: 75%
Unemployment rate: 20%
Population below the UN-established Poverty Line: 32%

IDENTIFYING THE NEED
Although Ghana is one of the most developed countries in West Africa, there are still humanitarian needs of the people that have to be addressed. The northern part of the country is lagging economically behind the south and this reflects on the living conditions of the people. Issues there include pockets of food insecurity, weak infrastructure and insufficient health care.

Conflicts in countries surrounding Ghana have made it a destination for refugees. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as of November 2006, there were more than 46,000 refugees and 5,500 asylum-seekers in the country.

> Two Ghanaian women have established a lucrative street-side yam business using Zakat Foundation-issued microcredit.



Report from Mohammad Abdo
ZF Africa Representative Finds Old Friends in Ghana while Establishing New Orphanage

Zakat Foundation Representative to Africa, Dr. Mohammad Abdo, visited Ghana, West Africa during the month of Ramadan to report on the progress of Zakat Foundation projects, as well as to assess the need for a Zakat Foundation-run orphanage in Sunyani, a city north of Kumasi.

While in Sunyani, I met when Zakat Foundation's Ghana Regional Office Director, Salia al-Hassan, to survey a site for a new Zakat Foundation-run orphanage. This new orphanage will provide food, shelter, education and healthcare to more than forty orphans. The layout of the building will include enough space for the children to live comfortably and socialize, as well as a fully equipped computer lab and library.

While in the village of Sunyani, I met some ladies who were selling yams by the roadside. I stopped for a moment to ask them about their business and I was delighted when I heard that, two years earlier, Zakat Foundation gave these women a microloan to help start their business. Their business appeared lucrative as they were able to hire additional workers to meet the demand of their yam sales.

Sunyani has become an important hub for the distribution of yams, as well as cocoa, kola nuts and maize. Zakat Foundation's Microcredit program has helped lift these women out of poverty. There are endless possibilities of how a few hundred dollars could help some struggling people in the area.

— Mohammad Abdo, ZF Africa Representative

Zakat Foundation invites donors to take part in sponsoring an orphanage to provide care and a home-like environment to the boys and girls in Sunyani, Ghana. Orphanages are a cost-effective approach to orphan sponsorship that ensures that the children are receiving consistent services and a good education.

Zakat Foundation is also extending our Microcredit program in Ghana to help individuals lift themselves out of poverty. Microcredit is the extension of small, interest-free loans to those in poverty to facilitate entrepreneurial efforts. Microcredit is a tool for socio-economic development.

Islamic scholars contend that a poor person with a skill or trade should receive adequate Zakat to acquire the necessary tools in order to become self-sufficient. For example, a rancher or herder can be given enough livestock to earn a living. A carpenter may be given tools and a seamstress or tailor can be given sewing machines to support their respective businesses.

Microcredit supports an autonomous organization of the rural and urban poor towards a dynamic and long lasting strengthening of communities from within.



Keeping the Prophet's Tradition of Aqeeqah

Giving Thanks for the Gift of a Child

Children are a blessing and they bring joy and happiness when they enter our lives. The birth of a child is a time to rejoice and give thanks to the Creator by sharing with the hungry and the destitute. Aqeeqah is a gracious program by which new parents and family members can celebrate the miracle of birth while making charitable work one of the first actions done on the child's behalf.

The Prophet, peace be upon him, said: *"If anyone has a child born to him, and he wants to sacrifice for his child, then let him do so."* Zakat Foundation facilitates the Islamic tradition of Aqeeqah by dedicating the best quality cows, sheep and goats and distributing fresh meat to needy families in communities where we work, at home and abroad, on behalf of the grateful parents of a newborn child.

Donors can arrange Aqeeqah on behalf of their own children or as a gift for loved ones in any of the countries where we work. The parents will receive a photo of a banner with the child's name and date of birth, taken with the deserving, thankful beneficiaries of the distribution.



UDHIYA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is Udhiya/Qurbani an Obligatory Charity?

Our scholars have characterized the practice of udhiya as either a confirmed practice of the Prophet (which nearly carries the weight of an obligation), or as an outright obligation (wājib). The first opinion is that of the three schools of Sacred Law established by Mālik, Al-Shāfi'ī, and Ahmad ibn Hanbal. The latter opinion is from Abū Hanīfah, as well as others. So neglect of the udhiya when one is able to do it is in the least case a reprehensible (makrūh) act and possibly an outright violation of a compulsory religious injunction. Obviously we should provide for sacrifice if at all we can.

Can I perform Udhiya/Qurbani on behalf of my mother who has passed away?

According to the majority of the scholars, one has to perform Udhiya on behalf of him or herself before he/she makes the intention to give Udhiya on behalf of a loved one who had passed away.

How does Zakat Foundation plan and choose which countries to perform Udhiya/Qurbani?

There are three categories of countries considered when choosing countries in which to perform udhiya. The first is the poorest countries in regions known to house large populations of destitute and needy, for example, the slums in Bangladesh and New Delhi, drought-stricken Mauritania and Somalia. These countries have received some attention as considerably the poorest areas in the world. The second category includes countries that are a special interest to the Muslim community, like Palestine, Iraq, and Darfur. These areas may not receive extensive media attention, but their plights hit home for Muslims worldwide. The final category is countries that, despite having areas of unbelievable poverty, do not receive as much attention as they should and are not necessarily the main regions that traditionally concern the Muslim community, like Palestine and the Philippines. Udhiya grants these deserving people meat in their diet.

How does Zakat Foundation choose the animals to be slaughtered?

In countries where Zakat Foundation has regional offices, like Bangladesh, Ghana, and others, animals are purchased about six weeks before Eid ul-Adha to ensure the best prices and the first pick of sheep, lambs, and cows. For the weeks leading up to Eid, the animals are carefully maintained and sustained by the best care and fed the best food. In other countries, Zakat Foundation's partner organizations purchase the animals on our behalf and, under the supervision of a Zakat Foundation representative, the animals are kept well in preparation for slaughter.

Zakat Foundation holds that the animals chosen and distributed are the best ones available in accordance with the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, to give in charity from the best of one's belongings and to give to others in quality of what you would wish for yourself. Zakat Foundation also supports the local economy of the countries by buying livestock and feed from local farmers. This ensures a fair return for the farmers as well as better and familiar quality meat for the recipients. Even in regions like Lebanon (for Palestinian refugees), Zakat Foundation offers the local sheep and lamb, known to be fatty and have a better taste than the imported New Zealand sheep and lamb.

> Chinese Muslim man receiving Zakat ul-Fitr/Fitrah from Zakat Foundation.



LESSONS IN GIVING



Will Charity Help Me in the World?
The Prophet, peace be upon him, has told us that Allah (swt) has called out to us: *Spend [in charity], O son of Adam, and even so shall Allah spend on you!* (Bukhari, Muslim)

Is it Permissible to Give Openly?
The Prophet, peace be upon him, said: *Whoever initiates a good practice gains his reward and the reward of all who follow his example, without this decreasing their reward in the least.*



**MATCHING GIFT:
WHERE YOU CAN DOUBLE YOUR DONATION**

Many companies in the US are very generous when it comes to supporting humanitarian causes. These corporations are giving back by supporting education and development, as well as healthcare and the fight against poverty. One of the ways in which they provide this support is through a matching gift program. The corporations encourage their employees to donate for good causes and then match their donations.

Corporate matching gift programs are a great way to maximize your generous donations! Employees from companies like Pfizer, Microsoft, and General Electric have taken the initiative to double their donations. Here is how you can maximize your donation:

1. Simply contact your employer's human resource department and ask if the company participates in matching gift programs.
2. Request a matching gift form and review the programs guidelines to see if the Zakat Foundation is eligible.
3. Mail completed form to the Zakat Foundation and we will handle the rest! If approved, your company will send its matching donation directly to the Zakat Foundation.

Imagine more for emergency aid, more for education and vocational schools, more for orphan sponsorship. You work hard to support your family; here is an effortless way to support needy families all over the world.

If your company does not currently support matching programs, please ask for it to do so.



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"It is not their meat nor their blood which reaches Allah, it is your piety in worship that pleases Him." (Al-Hajj:37)

*Share the Joys of Eid
by Giving Udhiya to Those in Need*



Zakat Foundation offers Udhiya in the following countries:

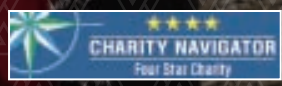
Afghanistan	\$80
Azerbaijan	\$80
Bangladesh	\$65
Burkina Faso	\$65
Chechnya	\$95
China	\$85
Egypt	\$200
Ethiopia	\$60
Gambia	\$65
Ghana	\$65
India	\$65
Indonesia	\$85
Iraq	\$100
Mali	\$65
Mauritania	\$65
Niger	\$65
Pakistan	\$80
Palestine	\$280
Palestinian Refugees (Lebanon/Jordan)	\$200
Philippines	\$65
Somalia	\$60
Sri Lanka	\$65
Sudan (Darfur)	\$80
Syria	\$180
Tajikistan	\$65
Thailand	\$70
United States	\$170

Our Udhiya is Not Canned:
Zakat Foundation purchases well-maintained livestock from local farmers in each country. We begin to slaughter and distribute fresh meat on the first day of Eid ul-Adha.

For \$25, you can add to the celebration of Eid ul-Adha by sharing an Eid Gift with an orphan or needy child.



Donate Your Udhiya Today!
Please visit our website: www.zakat.org
or call toll free: 1-888-ZAKAT-US (1-888-925-2887)





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Please use our online Zakat Calculator at www.zakat.org to pay your Zakat today!