

FALL 2010

ZAKATNEWS

Fostering Charitable Giving for Those in Need



ZAKAT
FOUNDATION
of AMERICA

Udhiya/Qurbani 2010/1431H *Share the Joys of Eid*

IN THIS ISSUE

- > Niger Relief Work Update
- > Udhiya/Qurbani 2010/1431
- > Ramadan 2010/1431 Program Report
- > Mosque Construction in Gambia Completes



EMERGENCY RELIEF

- > Pakistan Flood: Stories from the Field



CONTENTS

- 2 From the Director**
- 3-7 Emergency Relief**
Pakistan Flood: Stories from the Field
Zakat Foundation Sends Aid to Flood Survivors
Zakat Foundation's Niger Famine Relief Work Update
- 8-11 Seasonal Program**
Udhiya/Qurbani 2010/1431
Ramadan 2010/1431 Program Report
- 12-13 Seasonal Program**
Distribution Infographics
- 14-15 Development/Sadaqa Jariyah: Construction**
Construction of Mosque in Kembojai, Gambia
- 16-18 Development/Sadaqa Jariyah:**
Education Infrastructure in Afghanistan
Education Program in the Chicagoland Area
Vocational School for Women in Southern India
- 19 Development: Social Service**
ZF Awarded Grants for Social Services Programs
- 20 Orphan & Orphanage Sponsorship**
Lebanese Orphans Join ZF Sponsorship Program
- 21 What's New**
- 22 Udhiya/Qurbani Frequently Asked Questions**

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Assalamu alaykum, Peace and Blessings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your generous financial support. We were able to reach over 200,000 people in 33 countries. I know many brothers and sisters have desires to contribute more but their conditions would not allow them. I pray that Allah swt, Lord of heaven and earth, will accept from them and reward them according to their intention.

Throughout Ramadan we received many emails and phone calls about Zakat and Zakat payment. By the grace of God, we tried to help everyone to understand Zakat and the calculation of Zakat. From the emails and phone calls, we learned that zakat calculation and payment are becoming important issues for American Muslims. This is a great sign. We pray that many more Muslims will become conscious of the importance of Zakat. This is the way to economical independence and social justice!

Insha'Allah, soon we will live through Hajj and Eid Ul-Adha. Again this will be an occasion to extend our hands to the less fortunate ones. In many countries people are unable to consume meat throughout the year. Eid Ul-Adha will give the opportunity to many people to consume meat, one of the blessings of Allah (swt), especially in places such as Pakistan where the war and flood have ruined the lives of millions.

We pray for our Lord to accept the pilgrimage of those Hajjis traveling to the Holy cities of Mecca and Medina. We ask our brothers and sisters to pray for us while standing in front of the holy Ka'aba.

Insha'Allah, until our next issue.

Wassalam,

Your brother,



Khalil Demir, Executive Director

Zakat News is a publication of the Zakat Foundation of America.

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)

As a 501(c) (3) Non-Profit Organization, all of your donations are U.S. Tax Exempt. ID#: 36-4476244

Pakistan Flood

Stories from the Field



Muhammad Safir Ghulam

Since the flooding began, Zakat Foundation and its partners have been addressing the emergency needs of the victims of the flood in Pakistan. Each day, our team on the field tries to reach victims in underserved areas that have not received any aid, be it food, tents or other basic needs. "Each region we enter increases the sadness in our heart and brings tears to our eyes. Each story that we hear teaches us how important it is to be with them, sharing their sorrow and helping them by becoming a source of hope" said Dr. Muhammad Tarhan, one of Zakat Foundation's representatives in Pakistan.

It was a very scary noise that woke up Muhammad Safir Ghulam on the night when the flood started. "That sound was like a wild animal attacking a sheep", he said, and he had never heard such noise in his life.

On August 12, 2010, Muhammad, like the other victims in Muzaf-fargarh, woke up and ran out to see what was going on. When he got outside he saw everyone was leaving town. The flood was washing everything away. He ran back inside to warn his family. "Everything happened within a couple of minutes" he said. Everyone was awake and started packing whatever they could. In this very short time they could only take a few belongings, just a few clothes and other basic necessities. He picked his kids up, and got out of the house along with his wife.

While making it to higher grounds, he saw many people in the middle of the road. "Kids were crying and people left everything that they had" he added. All of them were terrified by the fear of drowning rather thinking about what they were supposed to take with them.



Mr. Din

An old man from the flood affected area, Mr. Din said that he was enjoying dinner with his family members on the evening of the disaster when the flood came and surrounded his house. He had heard a sound of running water. At first, he thought it was the sound of some vehicle until he realized that it was a rapid gush of flood waters.

He took his family members to the roof as he could not see the water and can only hear the dreadful noise of collapsing buildings and screams and cries of women and children. The whole night was a night of unforetold doom for him as he was expecting that his house would collapse and the whole family would drown. As daylight crept in, he saw the same scene happening on the rooftops of neighboring houses, that his family had experienced. In the long run, the victims of the flood will need extensive help. Millions of people lost their houses, farms and livestock. Farmers are without livestock and seeds to cultivate and continue their livelihood.

The winter will only bring more suffering to the flood victims. We can ease their suffering by providing them with tents, blankets, cooked and dry ration, medical equipment, hygiene sets, clothes and other basic necessities. Zakat Foundation continues to help our brothers and sisters in Pakistan by following the footsteps of Prophet Muhammad (saw) as he mentioned, "The Believers, in their mutual love, mercy and compassion, are like one body: if one organ complained, the rest of the body develops a fever." [Bukhari & Muslim]

To donate or to read more personal stories, please visit our website at www.zakat.org. Please help our brothers and sisters in Pakistan by donating generously to the Pakistan Emergency Relief Fund.



Local Effort to Aid Flood Victims in Pakistan Proves Fruitful

Zakat Foundation sends Aid to Flood Survivors

Throughout the first two weeks of the blessed month of Ramadan, more than 30 staff members and volunteers pulled together to pack and load a 40-foot shipping container with hundreds of boxes filled with humanitarian aid meant to ease the suffering of their brothers and sisters across the world in Pakistan.

News of the Pakistani flood crisis had mobilized Zakat Foundation, its volunteers and donors to collect and pack basic necessities consisting of hygiene products, medical supplies, culturally appropriate clothing for children and adults, blankets, and backpacks filled with school supplies and toys for children. With the swift coordination of Zakat Foundation's social service department, the aid goods were finally packed and shipped in a 40 ft container within a few weeks on September 3rd, 2010.

Once the shipment arrives, Zakat Foundation representatives and partners on the ground in Pakistan will transport and distribute the goods to the flood survivors. Preparation for a second humanitarian aid shipment for Pakistan is already underway. Our staff and volunteers are working diligently towards collecting enough aid for the second shipment and we encourage individuals to donate goods such as medical supplies, tents, sleeping bags, blankets and baby products.



Zakat Foundation maintains its ongoing commitment to help ease the suffering of the poor and disaster-stricken people of Pakistan. Since its establishment in 2001, Zakat Foundation has been actively helping the needy of Pakistan through orphan sponsorships, education programs, seasonal food distributions, and emergency relief operations.

Please visit our website at www.zakat.org to view pictures of our current relief efforts in Pakistan.



Famine Continues to Loom in the Future of Niger

Zakat Foundation's Niger Famine Relief Work Update

An estimated 7 million people, about half of the population of Niger is facing hunger as crops fail to mature and livestock drop dead in the scorching heat of the famine (New York Times 2010). Zakat Foundation continues to support food distribution in the vast Ténéré Sahara area in Niger in coordination with its local partner.

The distribution of dry rations, which includes millet, rice, beans and oil, are being delivered to six schools that were strategically chosen in areas in the Ifrouane and Gougaram locales of the Agadez region. The relief efforts are intended to alleviate severe hunger and malnutrition of the children of nomadic communities that often relocate during the rainy season, so they will have access to education and nutritious meals. Due to the lack of resources, these children often forgo school in order to help their families by earning an income in any small way. By making schools the distribution points for the food and providing the children who attend school with nutritious meals, the parents' worries about their children's health and education were relieved.

Our program was initiated in June, and local government officials have already expressed their appreciation. They encourage not only the continuation of Zakat Foundation's food distribution program, but also the expansion of the program itself because the affected communities are in need of help more than ever. Niger, a landlocked country which UN classifies as the world's least developed

lacks natural resources and is dependent on foreign aid. In addition to addressing child malnutrition, Zakat Foundation also provided some aid to the nomadic communities in the form of animal feed because without their animals, nomadic people lose their livelihoods and any hope of becoming self sufficient. One herder who benefitted from our emergency animal feed distribution in the village of Foudouk said that the animal feed was "like gold," because his starving animals have had little grass, and have instead ingested large amounts of sand which contributed to their death. The severe drought conditions have killed at least forty-percent of the herd animals in his area.

Zakat Foundation is dedicated to answering the plight of our brothers and sisters in Niger. The rainy season had begun by the time of our last delivery of emergency food rations in late August to nomadic state run schools in the villages of Tadek, Eboukroum, Tazorat, Mayat, Awidere, and Ntideynawen. Unfortunately, some areas have been plagued by flooding, which makes communities even more vulnerable to food insecurity.

Please remember the hungry children of Niger and the bleak situation their families are facing, and donate generously to support continued famine relief food distributions by visiting our website at www.zakat.org.







Share the Blessings of Eid ul-Adha with Those in Need

Muslims across the world will be renewing the practice of the Prophet Ibrahim (AS) on the tenth day of Dhul Hijjah of the Islamic calendar by committing sacrifice to feed the hungry and poor as well as giving the best of thanks giving to Allah (swt) for blessings throughout the year.

Ayesha narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, *"There is nothing dearer to Allah during the days of Qurbani than to sacrificing animals. The sacrificed animals 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 reached the ground. Therefore, sacrifice with an open and happy heart"* (at-Tirmidhi). Allah (swt) calls upon the believers to turn to Him in prayer and sacrifice, especially those whom He has granted an abundance of wealth (surah al-Kauthar 1:2).

Last year, by the Grace of Allah (swt) and the gracious support of our donors, Zakat Foundation distributed approximately 4,000 shares of fresh Udhiya/Qurbani meat to impoverished families in

Somalia, widows and orphans in the Gaza Strip, and needy families in other desperate areas in over 30 countries around the globe. Despite the looming concerns of financial meltdown and price hikes, our donors' generosity was as steadfast as ever. This year, with ongoing worldwide economy crises and natural disasters in Pakistan and Niger, and man-made disasters in Palestine and Sudan, Zakat Foundation remains hopeful in the dedication of the ummah in carrying the tradition of Eid ul-Adha.

In every country where we provide this service, the meat is distributed from freshly slaughtered livestock. We do not offer or distribute canned meat. Zakat Foundation buys livestock from local farmers to strengthen local economies. We purchase livestock as early as possible to avoid price hikes during Eid ul-Adha. Please use our enclosed envelopes to choose the countries that you would like to donate your Udhiya/Qurbani and mail it to us. We pray that our lord will accept your Udhiya/ Qurbani and may He bless you and your loved ones.

**Please support Udhiya/Qurbani Programs by mailing your donation with the enclosed envelope or donate online at www.zakat.org
Share the joy and festivities with an orphan or needy child by donating an Eid gift for only \$25**



COUNTRY	PRICE
Afghanistan	\$80
Azerbaijan (Chechen Refugees)	\$80
Bangladesh	\$65
Burkina Faso	\$65
Chechnya	\$95
China	\$85
Darfur	\$125
Egypt	\$200
Ethiopia	\$65
Gambia	\$65
Ghana	\$65
Haiti	\$65
India	\$65
Indonesia	\$100
Iraq	\$100
Kenya	\$60
Lebanon (Palestinian Refugees)	\$230
Malawi	\$65
Mali	\$65
Mauritania	\$65
Niger	\$65
Pakistan	\$85
Palestine/Gaza	\$280
Philippines	\$65
Senegal	\$65
Sierra Leon	\$65
Somalia	\$60
Sri Lanka	\$75
Sudan	\$90
Syria	\$180
Tajikistan	\$70
Thailand (Pattani)	\$75
Turkey	\$180
USA	\$170
Yemen (East African Refugees)	\$100



Ramadan 2010 Program Report

Zakat Foundation Feeds More than 200,000 Hungry and Needy

Ramadan has again connected hundreds of thousands of Muslims near and far; the generous and the destitute. Praise be to Allah (swt), the spirit of sharing and giving is alive as the desire of our donors to achieve inner tranquility and to partake in outward charity has again enabled Zakat Foundation to reach hundreds of thousands of impoverished men, women and children in over 30 countries.

Throughout the blessed days of Ramadan, we were able to distribute hot iftar-dinners, non-perishable food packages, and Eid Gifts to over 200,000 individuals, including flood victims of Pakistan and earthquake victims of Haiti. Zakat Foundation and its partners spent tremendous effort during Ramadan in order to provide aid and hot-food to flood victims in Pakistan. The number of Zakat Foundation's beneficiaries has doubled in comparison to the previ-

ous year thanks to the support of our donors. It is from Allah's (swt) mercy that Zakat Foundation's Ramadan Program has grown to benefit more people in struggling communities this year.

Ramadan is the time to purify one's soul and one's wealth. It is the most blessed month, a month when Muslims fast and strive to share with the poor and the needy. Ramadan is a month of innumerable rewards and inexhaustible mercy for those who fast and who easily part with their wealth in solidarity with the needy.

We pray to our lord, Allah (swt) that He accepts the deeds of everyone involved from our donors and recipients to the staff and volunteers who made it happened.





Throughout the blessed days of Ramadan, we were able to distribute hot iftar-dinners, non-perishable food packages, and Eid Gifts to over 200,000 individuals, including flood victims of Pakistan and earthquake victims of Haiti.



SEASONAL PROGRAMS

229,892 beneficiaries in 32 countries received hot iftar-dinners, non-perishable food packages, and Eid Gifts throughout the month of Ramadan 2010/1431



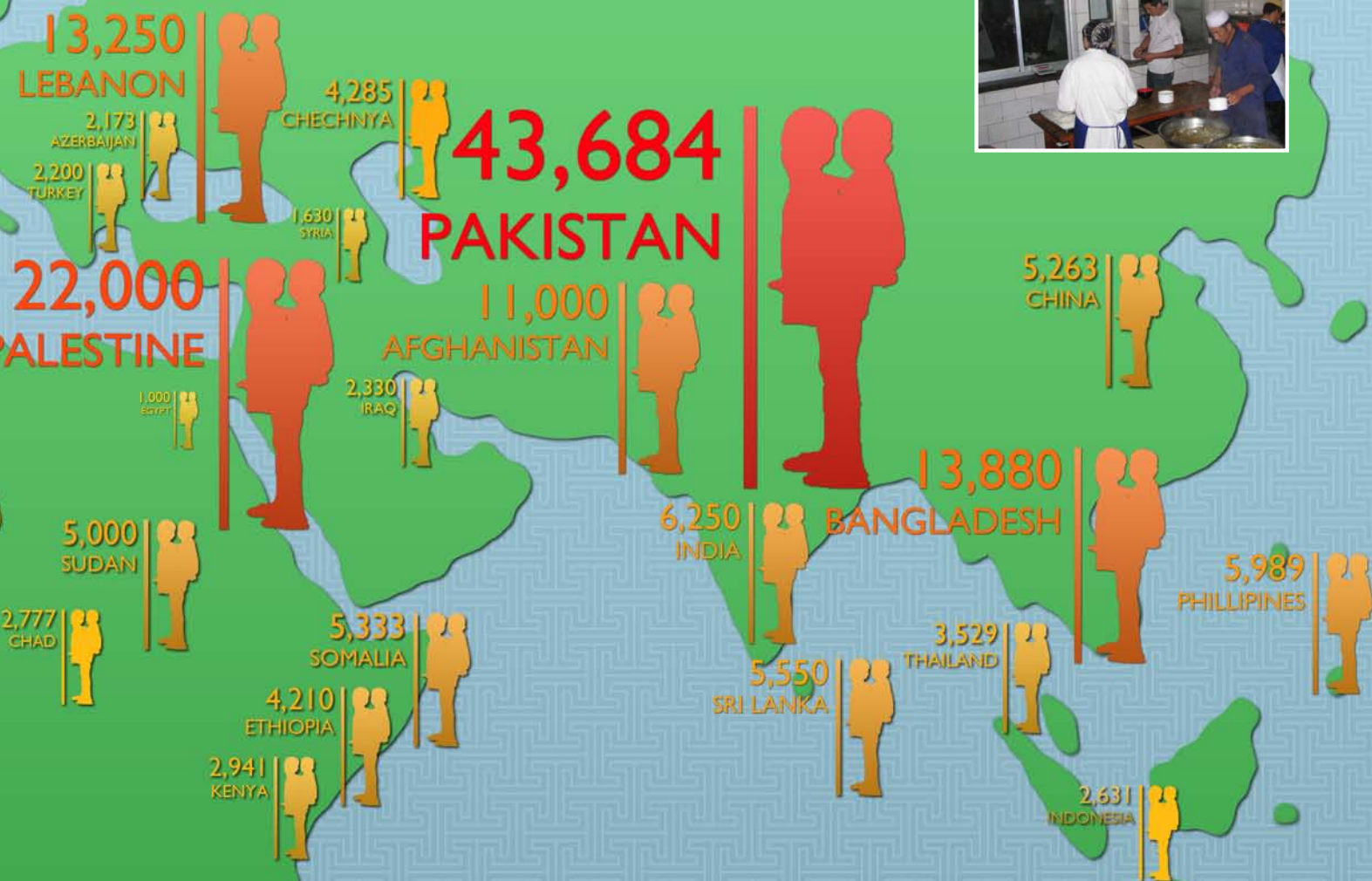
7,500
USA

28,129
HAITI



2,000 MAURITANIA
2,000 MALI
2,000 NIGER
3,125 GAMBIA
2,631 SENEGAL
3,636 BURKINA FASO
2,777 SIERRA LEON
9,189 GHANA







Ar-Rahman Mosque Exemplifies the Mercy of Allah swt

ZF Completes Construction of Mosque in Kembojai Village of The Gambia

Zakat Foundation's Sadaqa Jariyah program encourages donors to contribute to the creation of services that bring continuous benefit to needy communities. In the summer of 2010, once again our program was able to assist a community in dire need of a new mosque in Kembojai Village of the western Brikama region. The Gambia is the smallest country in Africa with a population of just under two million people. Islam is the predominant religion, practiced by about 90 percent of the population.

Before Zakat Foundation's construction of the new mosque, villagers would congregate in a mud brick structure that became wet and muddy during the rainy season, leaving the community without a regular place of worship. For Friday prayers, the people of Kembojai would have to travel at least two miles –on bike and by foot- to the nearest mosque. According to Fatu Chan, a widow with four children who lives in Kembojai, going to the mosque in the neighboring village was very difficult and she is so grateful for the new mosque that she will continue to pray for Zakat Foundation and its donors who built it for as long as she lives.

It was with Allah's (swt) grace that after receiving a donation of land from one of the members of the community, Zakat Foundation went about the construction of a larger mosque made of bricks and cement to accommodate the believers of community. On July 23rd, 2010, men, women, and children of the Kembojai community came out to celebrate the opening of Masjid ar-Rahman in a ceremony attended by our representative, Dr. Muhammad Tarhan.

"The villagers were very thankful to the Zakat Foundation's donors whose generosity allowed for building the mosque in their village." Insha'Allah, Masjid Ar-Rahman will serve its purpose as a mosque

and a community center for generations to come as commented by fourteen year old Abdul, "The building of the mosque in my village is important because I love to encourage my friends to pray and read the Quran together." The presence of the mosque will certainly encourage the villagers to engage in their ibadah by making the masjid more accessible. Many donors have contributed to building a mosque, on behalf of themselves or their loved ones, through Zakat Foundation's Development/ Sadaqa Jariyah Program. For more information on how you can benefit thousands of Muslims while receiving perpetual reward, visit our website at www.zakat.org or call toll-free at 1-888-ZAKAT-US.



Country Profile: Gambia



Independence: 1965 (from UK)

Land Area: 11,295 sq km

Climate: Tropical; hot, rainy season (June to November); cooler, dry season (November to May)

Agricultural Land Usability: 27.88%

Natural Hazards: drought (rainfall has dropped by 30% in the last 30 years)

Environmental issues: deforestation; desertification; water-borne diseases prevalent

Population: 1,778,081

Infant Mortality Rate: 68.84 deaths/1,000 live births

Life Expectancy: 53.81 years

Major Diseases: very high risk of bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, malaria, schistosomiasis, meningococcal meningitis and rabies

Religions: Muslim 90%, Christian 8%, indigenous beliefs 2%

Literacy rate: 40.1%

DONATE \$5 TO SADAQA JARIYAH
TEXT 'SADAQA' TO 50555



PERPETUAL CHARITY FOR PERPETUAL REWARD

A one-time donation of \$10 will be added to your mobile phone bill or deducted from your prepaid balance. Msg & Data Rates May Apply. Donations terms found at mGive.com/a. To unsubscribe text STOP to 50555, for help text HELP to 50555.





Saving the Future of Afghanistan

Rebuilding Schools and Supporting the Educational Infrastructure

Zakat Foundation continues its campaign to promote access to quality education in Afghanistan; and this is no small task considering that decades of war have left the Afghan school system in ruins with few functioning schools in many areas. As a matter of fact, the warfare of the 1980's against Soviet invaders destroyed Afghan educational opportunities to such an extent that it is possible to say that one whole generation in the country grew up without any formal schooling. According to recent statistics, an estimated 70 percent of the population numbering nearly 28.4 million is illiterate. Many schools lack proper facilities and qualified teachers.

ZF understands that every level of the Afghan educational system needs assistance. Therefore we try to respond according to their needs. *Thanks to the generosity of our donors, college students at several Afghan universities receive housing assistance and small stipends to offset the expense of educational materials and of living away from home.* According to recent statistics, an estimated eleven out of 25 million Afghans are illiterate, many schools lack proper facilities,

and the number of qualified teachers remains low. Therefore, attention must be given to elementary and high school levels as well.

Through our school rehabilitation and reconstruction program, ZF continues to address educational infrastructure issues in Afghanistan, which includes many dilapidated school buildings that have fallen into disuse. *The recent renovation of two schools, one elementary and another high school in the Bahark district of the remote northeastern province of Badakhshan is proof of our unwavering commitment to building a better Afghanistan.* Baharak is known to be one of the least developed districts in Afghanistan where growing opium poppy seems to be the only way some of its inhabitants can imagine securing a stable future for their families.

We can imagine a better, different future for Afghanistan. Therefore, we encourage our donors to show their commitment to the future of Afghanistan's children by supporting Zakat Foundation's student sponsorship and school programs in the country.



Back to School: Bringing Smiles to Children's Faces

ZF's Education Program Helps Families in Need in the Chicagoland Area

The excitement at having new school supplies is evident in the smiling faces of many young recipients of Zakat Foundation backpacks. Just as children in the Chicagoland area prepared to start another school year, Zakat Foundation was holding its 8th Annual Backpack Distribution program. Partnering with local police departments, mosques, Project Downtown and the Circuit Court of Cook County, Zakat Foundation handed out about 600 backpacks filled with school supplies to needy elementary school students and in poverty-stricken neighborhoods in and around Chicago.

Each backpack contained essential school supplies for students including notebooks, pencils, erasers, pens, rulers and glue. They came in different colors and sizes depending on the age group. The backpacks were prepared by Zakat Foundations Social Service Department with the help of volunteers around the Chicago area. The program continues to expand in the United States, as more families struggle with basic necessities, leaving little room in their budget for school supplies. Through Zakat Foundation's *To Kids, From Kids, With Love* Backpack Program, started in 2001, generous donors have contributed tens of thousands of backpacks to poor schoolchildren worldwide. This program promotes hands on humanitarian work for all ages, as children are encouraged to donate backpacks that they have personally filled with school supplies which are then sent overseas. The Backpack Program is just one of Zakat Foundations 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.



Giving Hope to A Muslim Community in the Slums of India

ZF Opens Vocational School for Impoverished Women in Southern India

Zakat Foundation believes education is the basis of community development and understanding between people. Therefore, in June 2010, we opened a Women's Vocational school in Hubli, India, an area where Muslims are often socially marginalized and struggle for economic independence. The intention of the school is to teach impoverished young women skills and trades that will allow them to successfully integrate into the working world. The women who study at the vocational school are from the poorest households of Hubli's old city slum areas in the Dharwad District. They face the utmost threat due to their class, caste and gender. The city of Hubli itself lies in North Karnataka, and is one of the most deprived areas in Southern India.

At the Zakat Foundation's Vocational School, the young women will, insha'Allah, learn the tailoring, embroidery, and computer literacy skills that will prepare them for employment in the production units at the local garment export firms, which are often seeking qualified new employees. Zakat Foundation is honored to have been able to provide the funding for the school's establishment, and encourages its donors to help ZF continue its support for this worthwhile educational venture that offers women from modest backgrounds opportunities for self-sufficiency. By imparting the



women of Hubli with skills useful in gaining livelihood, we hope to bring about a positive transformation in society. Your donation can help these women achieve their goals and support their families. Help promote education in poverty-stricken communities by contributing to Zakat Foundation's many education programs. You can learn more about other education programs we support at www.zakat.org.



Creating a Network of Muslim Social Services in America

Zakat Foundation Awards Grants for Social Services Programs

In light of social issues and economic hardships facing societies in the big cities of America, Zakat Foundation launched its new Grant Program in May 2010, offering an estimated \$200,000 in funds to social services projects. The program is designed to increase services Muslim provide locally to both Muslims and non-Muslims, and as a result, eliminate the disconnect between us and our non-Muslim neighbors, as well as fulfill our Islamic duty to the needy.

About 84 percent of the mosques in the U.S. provide funds to the needy but few have formal structures in place that go beyond this charity. With Zakat Foundation's Grant Program, mosques and Islamic organizations were provided guidance in becoming pro-active in their communities and neighborhoods.

Through careful evaluation, a number of organizations had been picked as the winners of the Grant Program among dozens of applications that were sent from across the nation. The winners had submitted well-developed ideas ranging from food pantries, women shelters, youth programs and re-entry initiatives. Here are three examples of social service programs that we encourage and support.

Neighborhood Needs

Al-Maun is a non-profit organization based in Las Vegas, Nevada that aims to address the needs of the community at large and to help improve the conditions of families, children, senior citizens and the growing homeless population by providing free medical and nutrition assistance. Zakat Foundation shares the same aspiration in providing sustainable assistance to the poor and needy of the community and therefore has awarded Al-Maun grants for its programs.

Helping Victims of Domestic Abuse

Domestic violence crosses ethnic, racial, generational, religious and socioeconomic lines. In cases of domestic violence, it is not enough to provide a bed and meals for the victims. Though these women have survived, they are wounded by their traumatic experiences. They struggle with fear and stress, heightened emotions, and even memory loss or impaired judgment from repeated injuries to the head. Zakat Foundation recognizes Women Affairs of Al-Mumtahinah Home in Baltimore, Maryland as a shelter that furthers their purpose by providing medium and long term support to the victims of domestic violence.

Changing the World, One Person at a Time

Nearly 650,000 people are released from state and federal prison yearly and arrive on the doorsteps of communities nationwide. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics study of 15 states, more than two-thirds of state prisoners released from incarceration were re-arrested and more than half returned to prison within three years of their release.¹

Citizens Against Recidivism is working in collaboration with other community and faith based organizations to achieve and maintain behavior change among those who have been released from prison or jail in the New York area. The re-entry initiative has been chosen as one of the winners of Zakat Foundation's grant program.

1. Langan, P.A. & D.J. Levin, *Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1994*, NCJ 193427, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2002.





Bringing Smiles to More Orphans

Orphans from Akkar, Lebanon Join Zakat Foundation Sponsorship Program

In October 2010, fifty more orphans from Akkar, Lebanon officially became a part of the Zakat Foundation's orphan sponsorship program. Our orphan sponsorship program links our caring donors with children in need who have either lost one or both of their parents. Children in the most critical and vulnerable circumstances are chosen to join the orphan sponsorship program. Through the program, they receive funds to offset the costs of schooling, food and healthcare. For many, these funds are a lifeline and a bridge to a better future.

The Akkar orphans are truly in need of help from compassionate donors. Akkar, a region in Northern Lebanon near the Syrian border, has the lowest rate of urbanization in the country. Although it was not directly affected by the Lebanese civil war, its remoteness, and the long-term presence of Syrian troops, who occupied the area until 2005, contributed to its current economic isolation from the rest of Lebanon.¹ The poverty rates in Akkar are the highest in the entire country. Today, children and youth² constitute a large proportion of the population of developing countries. They represent the largest potential for the human and social capital of their countries. However, many of them are deprived of the opportunities to grow up healthy, to learn and to become productive and responsible citizens. This not only denies their basic rights now and damages their lifelong prospects, but also hinders their societies' prospects for economic growth, and contributes to perpetuation of

poverty, inequality and insecurity. Prophet Muhammad (saw) made it clear to us the importance of caring for orphans and the reward in the hereafter. In many verses of the Quran, Allah (swt) specifically instructs us to care for orphans. "They ask you as to what they should spend. Say: Whatever wealth you spend, it is for the parents and the near of kin and the orphans and the needy and the wayfarer, and whatever good you do, Allah surely knows it." Al-Baqara (2:215)



Zakat Foundation welcomes these fifty new children to its Orphan Sponsorship program, invites our donors to extend to them the warm hand of generosity, and looks forward to sharing with our readers in the near future, insha'Allah, the stories of hope and personal triumph from these special children.

1. *A World Fit for Children*, New York, UNGASS, 2002

2. <http://www.executive-magazine.com/getarticle.php?article=13321>

NPR's Jerome McDonnell Interviews ZF Director

Jerome McDonnell, the host of Chicago Public Radio's long-running global affairs program, *Worldview*, spoke with ZF's Executive Director, Halil Demir on August 18, 2010 about our relief efforts for Pakistan flood survivors.

The flood in Pakistan has affected 20 million people. Of those 20 million affected, almost 70% had not yet received aid at the time of the interview. Floods create a very unique disaster situation as they wash everything away, from crops and animals to housing and business, including cell phone towers, and even roads. This type of devastation leaves people isolated and vulnerable to the elements, diseases and starvation.

Mr. Demir urged the American people to "extend our hand" to help those devastated by the flood as aid is slow to come from the Pakistani government. He also urged the Pakistani government and military to assist relief efforts by temporarily removing check points and lending necessary equipment to those mounting relief efforts.

Zakat Foundation Breaks Bread with Local Community

On August 26th in the blessed month of Ramadan, ZF hosted its annual Community Iftar Dinner at Universal School in Bridgeview, Illinois. Approximately 350 people attended the event, including community leaders, imams from Chicago-area mosques, donors, volunteers, friends and family members. The guests were treated to Middle Eastern cuisines and an update on ZF's ongoing relief work in Pakistan.

"The purpose of our annual dinner is to appreciate the community that has been very supportive and continue to support our cause" said Halil Demir. ZF also provided hot iftars and food packages daily to the poor and needy in more than thirty countries including the United States throughout the whole month of Ramadan.

Offering food in Ramadan has extra virtue due to the nobility of the time and the need of the fasting Muslims for food. According to a hadith by At-Tirmidhi, the Prophet PBUH said, "*Whoever feeds a fasting person will have a reward like that of the fasting person, without any reduction in his reward,*" so preparing food in this month for the needy is from the best of actions because charity in the month of Ramadan is multiplied more than any other months.



MATCHING GIFT

WHERE YOU CAN DOUBLE YOUR DONATION

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. *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.*

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




ZAKAT
FOUNDATION
of AMERICA

P.O. Box 639 Worth, IL 60482 | tel: 708-233-0555 | fax: 708-233-0339 | Tax ID: 36-4476244

UDHIYA/QURBANI FAQs

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 (wajib). The first opinion is that of the three schools of Sacred Law established by Malik, Al-Shaf'i, and Ahmad Ibn Hanbal. The latter opinion is from Abu Hanifah, as well as others. So neglect of the Udhiya when one is able to do it is in the least case a reprehensible (makruh) act and possibly an outright violation of a compulsory religious injunction. Obviously we should provide for sacrifice if at all possible.

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 loved ones who had passed away.

How does ZF 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. Udhiya grants these deserving people meat in their diet.

How does ZF choose the animals to be slaughtered?

In countries where ZF 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, ZF's partner organizations purchase the animals on our behalf and, under the supervision of a ZF representative, the animals are kept well in preparation for slaughter. ZF holds that animals chosen and distributed are the best ones available in accordance with the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (saw), 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. ZF 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 recipients. Even in regions like Lebanon (for Palestinian refugees), ZF offers the local sheep and lamb, known to be fatty and have a better taste than the imported New Zealand sheep and lamb.

Why is the price of Udhiya/ Qurbani different in each country?

There are many reasons why the price of Udhiya/ Qurbani varies in each country. ZF buys animals in countries where we slaughter. We do this in order to provide fresh meat, instead of frozen or canned meat to the people on the first three days of Eid. The prices of livestock differ from country to country, and we match our Qurbani prices to the actual cost of buying livestock. The price of an animal in New Zealand, for instance, is one third of the price in Jordan or Egypt. ZFs buys livestock in Jordan in order to provide fresh meat to needy people on Eid. Natural disasters such as flooding, earthquakes, drought, or man-made disasters such as wars affect the prices of animals. In Pakistan, the price of Udhiya/ Qurbani skyrockets because there is a shortage of supply due to the high number of livestock that perished in the flood. Another reason for the differences in prices is that some countries supply fewer animals than the demand, or the demand suddenly increases before Eid. In Turkey, for instance, animal prices are twice as much as the previous year because of a sharp increase in demand.



“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
Chad	\$65
Chechnya	\$95
China	\$85
Darfur	\$125
Dominican Republic	\$90
Egypt	\$200
Ethiopia	\$65
Gambia	\$65
Ghana	\$65
Haiti	\$65
India	\$65
Indonesia	\$100
Iraq	\$100
Kenya	\$60
Malawi	\$65
Mali	\$65
Mauritania	\$65
Niger	\$65
Pakistan	\$85
Palestine	\$280
Palestinian Refugees (Lebanon/Jordan)	\$230
Philippines	\$65
Senegal	\$65
Sierra Leon	\$65
Somalia	\$60
Sri Lanka	\$75
Sudan	\$90
Syria	\$180
Tajikistan	\$70
Thailand	\$70
Turkey	\$180
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 three days of Eid ul-Adha.



ZAKAT
FOUNDATION
of AMERICA

Donate Your Udhiya Today!

Please visit our website: www.zakat.org

or call toll free: 1-888-ZAKAT-US (1-888-925-2887)



Zakat Foundation of America | P.O. Box 639 Worth, IL 60482 | tel: 708-233-0555 | fax: 708-233-0339 | Tax ID: 36-4476244



ZAKAT
FOUNDATION
of AMERICA

Fostering Charitable Giving for Those in Need

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Zakat Foundation

P.O. Box 639 | Worth, IL 60482 | www.zakat.org

1-888-ZAKAT-US (1-888-925-2887)



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