

FEEDBACK

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MUSLIM HANDS

United for the Needy



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Muslim Hands is your trusted means to reach out to the poor



Assalamu alaikum and Ramadan Mubarak,
May the Infinite Grace and Mercy of Allah^{swt} be with you. Ameen.

We know from the Holy Quran and Hadith, that there are only two states for the believer. One is either in a state of Shukr (gratefulness to Allah^{swt} for His Mercy and Generosity) or the state of Sabr (patience in times of hardship).

Take one look at the wars in Chechnya, Kashmir and Palestine, or the devastating floods in Mozambique and India, and try to imagine the destruction and misery they brought. Look at the extensive droughts that hit much of the Muslim world including Pakistan, Afghanistan and Africa, and try to feel the suffering and hardship that millions of men, women and children had to face.

Surely then, it is we who should be in the state of Shukr - thanking Allah^{swt} for His infinite Mercy and Kindness. We must count our blessings often and show gratitude for all that we have, and certainly we must not forget those who have not.

What better way to do Shukr than make Sadaqah in the blessed month of Ramadan to those who need it most?

Your generous Zakah, Sadaqah and Fitrah donations have already helped provide much needed food, water, shelter, and clothing to places including those I have mentioned above. Many of our long-term projects in education, medical care, orphan sponsorship, and the provision of nearly 500 new water projects in the last year alone, have been established and maintained only through your trust and commitment.

The enclosed newsletter will give you an insight into some of the work that we are currently engaged in. Please support us in this valuable work by sending your Zakah and Sadaqah donations today. A reply envelope is provided for you.

Wassalamu Alaikum
Shahid Bashir (Fundraising Manager)

MUSLIM HANDS

United for the Needy

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How your Money Helps

£200 Pays for one complete house in Bangladesh or India.

£100 Pays for installation of one complete tube-well.

£25 Feeds a family of five for one whole month.

£20 per month: 1-2-1 Orphan Sponsorship supports and educates a poor orphan.

£12 per month: Helps provide food, clothing and rent for one elderly person.

Please find a regular giving form enclosed

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE:
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ON-LINE DONATIONS
www.muslimhands.org

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Yes! I will like to help the needy...

£10 £20 £50 £100 Other £

Name, Address & Postcode: (please amend if incorrect - use BLOCK CAPS)

Breakdown of my donation

Amount Zakah £ _____

Sadaqah /Lillah £ _____

Fitrah (£2.50 / person) £ _____

Iftar (£2.50 / person) £ _____

EidGift (£10 each) £ _____

DawaGift (£10 each) £ _____

Total Enclosed £ _____

Spend my donation on:

- Education & Dawa
- Medical Care
- Food Distribution
- Emergency
- Water Projects
- Orphans
- Elderly Care
- Shelter
- Where Most Needed**

Let ALL Your Donations Grow by ~ 28%

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Expiry Date:

Issue No.

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Aid for Chechnya

Food, Clothing and Four New Schools for War-torn Chechen Refugees

**Education and Dawaa:
Four Schools / Madrassas
for children & adults (left)**



Chechnya is a modern Muslim society. Anyone who has had the fortune of knowing the Chechen people will no doubt testify to their nobleness, fierce independence and loyalty to family. It is hard for the modern world to comprehend the logic of the Chechens when once again they have plunged into a war that is seemingly impossible to win. But after being forced by tyranny into facing a choice of surrender or death, the noble Chechens have chosen to stand for freedom.

Only now are we beginning to see the video footage of thousands of terrified refugees clamouring to get out of Grozny, as Russian aircraft pound the city relentlessly with heavy artillery. Three months of intensive bombing, they have left their homes, schools and hospitals in rubble, with no electricity or running water.

Only now is the world beginning to understand the plight of the Chechen people, and the suffering is not over. Once again the cameras have moved on, but the fighting certainly continues...no wonder then, that those who

managed to get themselves to safety in Georgia and Ingushetia have not yet returned, many will certainly not have much to return to.

"Peace in Chechnya seems to be a life-time away" said one old Chechen on our last visit to Duici, he seems to be right.

Muslim Hands has established a full time office in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, and has been working with the victims of the war at the refugee camps in Duici, south of the Georgian-Chechen border. Duici is the largest refugee camp with more than 7,000 refugees staying in this region. Although many refugees have found some kind of accommodation in the villages around Duici, on our arrival, food was very scarce.

Al-Hamdulillah, Muslim Hands in partnership with the only official Chechen aid organisation, has been distributing food and fuel in and around Duici regularly since their arrival, and over

the border into Chechnya when conditions have allowed. We also performed Qurbani here in March 2000 and distributed meat to five villages in the region.

Refugees inside Chechnya have been far more difficult to reach. The only feasible route to this area, high in the Caucasus Mountains is extremely dangerous to navigate, especially in the winter months. Last year Muslim Hands purchased two four wheel drive trucks that are suitable for this route and they are now taking food and clothing over the border into Chechnya itself.

Besides the regular food, clothing and fuel distributions, Muslim Hands, Georgia, has been providing financial support to the severely sick and injured in hospitals in Tbilisi and Akhmeta in Azerbaijan.

We have also established four madrassas / schools for the refugee children. The schools were initially designed to cater for around 500 full time students but adults also wishing to learn the Quran have increased numbers to around 700.



Caring for sick and injured in Tbilisi hospitals (centre)

Regular food & fuel distribution in Georgia (left)

Specialist vehicles carry food into Chechnya (right)

Ethiopia Drought

5 Wells, Food & Medicines for Ethiopia

Ironic, that whilst we witnessed severe flooding in Mozambique, Ethiopia was undergoing extensive drought and experiencing the onset of famine, gradually pushing millions towards famine and starvation.

Muslim Hands' volunteers from the UK and South Africa worked in the region, providing food and basic medicines to the most remote areas of Gode, Harkali and Harmukali, many of which were receiving aid for the first time.

Alongside food distribution, our teams identified and initiated long-term projects such as the digging of new wells and water storage systems. We have now completed five such wells, each of which is equipped with a pump and a water reservoir/storage tank. The wells are located in the lowlands and dug to a depth of 10 meters or more. It is hoped that these new 'safe water' schemes will provide adequate water supply for drinking and irrigation even in drought periods.

The volunteers' report also highlighted the need for further commitment to long-term aid in terms of establishing 'Vocational Skills Centres' aimed at alleviating poverty by helping

young men and women become self-sufficient and economically stable.

Plans for skills centres in the Jijiga region are underway. The centre will teach skills in metal-work, carpentry and masonry work.

Medical clinics for the south-eastern region are also planned. Besides offering basic medical care for the community, that all Muslim Hands clinics provide, these clinics will also provide veterinary services for live-stock. This is imperative, as the link between human lives and the lives of their cattle is quite profound. Provision of shelter is also a high priority for this region. (see Shelter report on page 7)



Old & homeless (top)



New well project (left)

Food distribution in Gode, Harkali and Harmukali (below)



Eritrea

Refugees Help Themselves With Agricultural Project

The war that erupted on 14th May 2000 between the impoverished countries Ethiopia and Eritrea has forced more than 300,000 people from their homes. Around 50,000 of which have fled to the Wad Sharifey camp near Kassala on the eastern borders with Sudan.

With our partners in the region, Muslim Hands is helping to run an agricultural project aimed at helping the refugee community to be self-reliant in producing food by cultivating the abundant arable land in this area. We have recently

donated a tractor and a plough that will help farmers produce food for around 2,000 people and will also provide employment for farmers and labourers.



To serve the growing medical needs of this war exhausted community, a mobile ambulance service has been put in place. Furthermore, a vocational skills training centre for women has been established at Kassala. It runs daily classes in sewing, embroidery, bakery and handicrafts. The centre trains around 160 women per month.

Pakistan

25,000 Refugees Helped at Muslim Hands Camps



More than 140 tonnes of food and blankets were delivered here to feed and assist the constantly growing population.

Four emergency medical care centres and ambulance units were set up in the surrounding regions to help fight against the threat of disease and the treatment of common illnesses such as diarrhoea. More than 10% of the inhabitants of this area suffer from TB and a vaccination programme covering 15,000 people was undertaken immediately. Two full time doctors were employed at each of the two camps.

Water supply remained an arduous task throughout the relief campaign as tanker lorries ran from camp to camp on a daily basis providing a continuous supply of clean water, totalling more than 30,000 litres per day.

Five temporary schools catering for nearly 800 children and a mosque were set up at the camp. Children also received reading books, stationary and sports equipment to help keep them entertained and bring some aspect of normality back to their lives.

Umarkot Distribution Centre, Sindh: Set up in a similar fashion to the distribution centre at Shingar, Muslim Hands Pakistan supplied food, medical care and other essentials to more than 5,000 families at the camp and also delivered aid to the surrounding regions.

Al-Hamdulillah, the drought has subsided and the refugees have returned to their villages, but many of them still face tremendous hardship. Your support is as still needed as ever.

Safe Water Projects

Dependable water supply is the primary key in solving the acute problems facing Balochistan and Sindh. Muslim Hands conducted extensive surveying of suitable locations where water is available even during drought periods.



Mirpur, Balochistan: For the past four years, a community of 5,000 in Mirpur have been dependant on water supply from a source 5km away. The source is actually a dirty pond that is unsafe to drink from and is a health hazard.

Muslim Hands Pakistan is now in the process of installing a **22km pipeline** to Mirpur (and neighbouring villages) that will provide safe and clean drinking water throughout the year. A large water storage system is also being built at Mirpur.

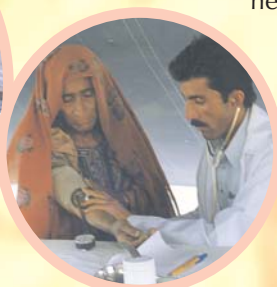
A well (shown above) has also been dug in the village of Mulla-Dooni, and an existing water supply has been made safe.

Three years without rain had left Balochistan and Sindh in a perilous state. More than 750,000 animals perished and numerous villages lay deserted as families fled to safer areas. In the particularly hard hit area of Thar, more than 400 people died as a direct consequence of the drought. More alarmingly, the drought was spreading. Many areas of central and north Pakistan also began to show tell-tale signs of the onset of drought.

With most of their livestock dead and crops destroyed, village-by-village, the inhabitants of large areas of Sindh and Balochistan were forced out of their homes, leaving them impoverished.

Muslim Hands Pakistan took charge of two large refugee camps at Shingar, District Kharam, Balochistan and Umarkot in Sindh - the heart of the drought area.

Shingar camp in district Kharam, had become home to around 7000 refugees.



Daily water-tankers arrive at Muslim Hands camps (top)

Food parcels distribution (left)

TB Vaccinations for 15,000 at Shingar & Umarkot (near left)

Free Medical Care

Muslim Hands Free Medical Projects Served
More Than 230,000 Worldwide in 1 Year



Cleft Lip Correction Surgery

As in previous years Muslim Hands carried out cleft lip correction operations in Pakistan with the help of Child-Care International, a UK based medical charity for children.

An experienced team of plastic surgeons and nurses travel bi-annually to Pakistan to treat children with cleft lip problems. Although cleft lip

correction surgery is available in Pakistan, it is highly specialised and therefore very costly. In relative terms it is the equivalent of paying £200,000 in this country!

Children with cleft lip suffer tremendously. Apart from speech and eating problems they often face social exclusion and anxiety. Al-Hamdulillah, with this corrective operation these children can socialise, speak and eat normally, bringing an

immense qualitative change to their young lives.

This year Muslim Hands was able to provide extra medicines to the team before their departure for Pakistan. Insha-Allah, with your generous support and dua, we will continue to fund this remarkable project in future years.

With only £100 you can help change the life of one poor child by paying for a cleft lip operation.

New Wards & Operating Theatre for Eye Care Hospital

The Rifahi Markaz in Pakistan is a truly remarkable institution that had carried out more than 80,000 operations for the removal of cataract - totally free of cost. No doubt you will remember the report we ran in last years newsletter about this institution.

With your support and generous donations Muslim Hands is now funding the construction of a new, modern operating theatre and also a new Diagnostics Wing.



This much needed extension covers an area of 40,000 sq. feet and will house the latest eye care equipment including laser technology.

We are also constructing new hospital wards at the old site, which will be a welcome replacement to the 50-year-old outdoor 'sheds' under which patients were previously housed during the most busy times.

Worldwide Medical Care

Afghanistan
Mobile Clinic serves 6000 annually

Senegal
Medical Clinic and Maternity ward serves rural areas

Eritrea
New Ambulance Unit serves 6,000 people

Mozambique
Ambulance service and Nutrition centres aid 12,000

Ethiopia
Medical distribution and vaccination programme

Kosova
Hospital and fleet of military ambulances for Peje.

Occupied Kashmir
2 Blood Banks

Kashmir
3 Clinics and 2 Ambulances serve 35,000 annually



and many more...

Mozambique

Ambulance Service and Nutrition Centres Nurse Flood Victims to Health



Mozambique is located in southern Africa. Already an under developed and impoverished country, the heavy flooding that struck this region in spring of 2000, left more than 1.5 million homeless, hungry and destitute. Horrific pictures of mothers and children stranded on rooftops and trees for days without food and shelter became unbearable to watch as the crisis dragged on.

Muslim Hands (UK) and Muslim Hands South Africa responded immediately by sending volunteers to the region. Our primary mission to distribute food and clothing was undertaken immediately in the most affected areas of Xai-Xai, Maputo and Gaza.

Based at Macia Camp near Maputo, food parcels and blankets were distributed. Each family received enough to feed a family of six for one month and also two blankets.

Nutrition Centre: Many young children (aged under 5 years) were found to be suffering severe malnutrition, with body-weights 80% or less than their normal weight. These children were kept at our Nutrition Centres, so they could be treated and monitored properly.

Each Nutrition Centre contained two large shelters, two kitchens, clean water storage systems and an ambulance for outreach work. Two full time Nutritionists were employed to administer the high energy feeding correctly and nurse the young children back to health.

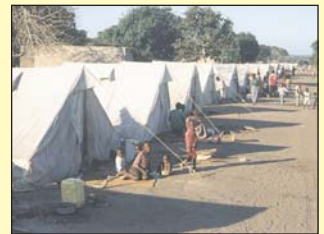
Three mobile medical units and ambulances:

The roads in Mozambique are poor at the best of times but the floods destroyed what little infrastructure there had been, making the task of food distribution difficult and almost impossible in some areas.

Two ex-military four-wheel drive ambulances were sent from the UK to tackle this problem and a third ambulance was found locally. The ambulances serve as medical outreach vehicles serving remote communities who have no access to medical care. Each vehicle carries basic medicine and a medical team comprising of a qualified doctor and a nurse. The units currently serve around 10,000 families in the Xai-Xai region.

Housing: Many of the poor who lost their homes in the Xai-Xai region have been unable to rebuild their homes and are forced to continue living in tents covered with plastic sheeting. Muslim Hands Low Cost House building programme is now underway to serve such families to rebuild or repair their homes. Each house comprises of a living room and latrine. Built from local materials such as bamboo, concrete and a zinc roof, the houses can last around 30 years.

You can donate one complete house for as little as £300.
(see Shelter article on page 7)



Refugees Camps in Xai-Xai receive food and blankets



Food distribution



Low cost housing



Ambulance Units, Gaza

Assam (India) Flood Disaster

137 New Homes & Food Camps for Victims

More than 70% of Assam's Muslim population live below the poverty line. Around 30% of its poor rural population is in essence, homeless living in temporary shacks. Muslim Hands has been working with some of the poorest people in this region since 1994.

A medical centre, vocational skills training center and One-to-One Orphan Sponsorship, are some of the projects that we have currently running in Assam.

Although flooding is not uncommon in this part of the world, the flooding of the Borak Valley in May 2000 affected more than 100,000 people. Most of them lost their crops, live-stock and even their homes. Muslim Hands responded immediately via our office in Assam with the distribution of Family Food Parcels in the

Karimganj and Cachar areas where the flooding had been most severe.

Our clinics in Assam rushed to treat around 300 people for injuries and various medical conditions.

The clinic also became the centre for distribution of clothing and blankets.

Immediately after the floods receded, Muslim Hands undertook the construction of new homes. Forty-seven new low-cost homes had

Floods bring Destruction (right)

Food Camp & Clothing distribution (below)

been constructed and around 90 more are planned in the immediate future. (see article on shelter below)



Low Cost Housing Project

A Sadaqah Jaria Project (continuous charity)

Shelter, food and clothing are the universal bare essentials that we all need to survive. Sadly, in much of the developing world, wars and natural disasters leave tens of thousands of needy families without shelter every year.

Muslim Hands Low Cost Housing Project in which poor families are helped in the repair of or rebuild

of their homes. This was started in Bangladesh three years ago after the disastrous floods of 1998. Initially only 50 homes were built, but since then the housing project has substantially and the **scheme now provides around 100 new family homes per year.**

The shelter project is now also

running in India and Mozambique. The houses are often small two-bedroom units built using local materials and technology, and are well suited to their occupants. In Mozambique for instance a typical house is built using wood, mud and zinc roofing and lasts around 30 years! House building is an excellent way in turning your donation in to Sadaqah Jaria (continuous charity).



Location of New Family Home	Cost of Building One Complete New Home
Bangladesh	£200
India	£200
Mozambique	£300

Education & Training

- Schools
- Madrassas
- Vocational Training Centres



Library and Computer Literacy Centre in The Gambia

"We feel that education and Dawa is a duty..." began the report from our regional officer in The Gambia. He continued, "...we strongly feel the need for an Islamic library here, that is open to all..."

An initial feasibility report was conducted on our behalf by a team of MBA students who travelled to The Gambia. It was found that the library services in The Gambia were

in desperate need of stock. The National Library Network was found to contain very little sources of Islamic literature, and the Mobile Library Network (library-bus), that had provided some access to literature to the rural communities, had been suspended for the past four years due to lack of funding.

As English is the official language of The Gambia, Muslim Hands sent the initial shipment of 700 books and 100 videos from here in the U.K. Al-Hamdulillah, a small library located near our office

in The Gambia is now open to the public.

We are also in the process of establishing a Computer Literacy Centre in Serre-Kunda, The Gambia. Twenty personal computers have been despatched from the UK for this purpose. The centre will also double as an electronic library / resource centre for the local community.

You can help bring the light of the Quran to communities in The Gambia, Mexico and Central Asia, by donating a copy of the Quran for the small sum of £10. (see Dawa-Gift leaflet or contact our office for more details)

How your Money Helps

£200 Pays for one complete house in Bangladesh or Assam, India.

£100 Pays for installation of one tube-well, that will provide safe and clean drinking water.

£25 Buys one Family Food Parcel containing ample food to feed a family of five for one whole month.

£10 Buys one school-kit for a poor school child. (Includes a school bag, various text books etc.)

£20 per month: **One-to-One Orphan Sponsorship** supports and educates a poor orphan child

£12 per month: Your gift of just £12 per month helps provide food, clothing and rent for one elderly person.

(Find regular giving form enclosed)

New School for Albania

The Muslim community in Britain played a vital role in helping many thousands of sufferers and saving countless lives in Albania and Kosova during the Kosovan war.

Since the end of the dreadful war, in Kosova Muslim Hands has established hospitals and ambulance services, a dawa office has been set up, and new IT facilities have been provided to the Madrassa Alla-Udeen in Pristina.

More recently we have established a part-time

school in Tirana, Albania. The school provides Islamic based education including Islamic Studies, Arabic, English and I.T. The school caters for 265 boys and girls aged between 11 - 14 years, providing them with 64 hours of supplementary education per week. Last month saw the addition of a new library at the school consisting of 400 essential books.



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Yes! I will help the needy...

£10 £20 £50 Other£

Donor I.D: (see mailing label)

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- Education
- Medical
- Food
- Water
- Orphans
- Shelter
- Elderly
- Where most needed**

Zakah £

Sadaqah £

Total £

Let ALL your Donations Grow by ~ 28%

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