



**PROVIDING RELIEF
AND SUPPORT
THROUGH EVERY
DIFFICULTY
SINCE 1998**

ISLAMIC RELIEF IN YEMEN

**DECADES OF ACTION TO EASE
POVERTY AND SUFFERING**

ISLAMIC RELIEF IN YEMEN

Islamic Relief is a faith-inspired humanitarian and development agency working to save and transform the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people. Established in the UK in 1984, we work in over 40 countries, assisting people according to need, and do not discriminate in any way.

Since 1998, we have been providing humanitarian relief in Yemen as the communities we serve have struggled through armed conflict, displacement, risk of famine, disease outbreaks and severe economic decline. Wherever possible we work through local partners as part of our efforts to strengthen civil society, concentrating on inclusion of all ages and abilities. Our Yemen team are among the first to respond to emergencies with life-saving aid.

This publication is dedicated to the memory of our dear colleague Hamdi Abo Abdullah Al-ahmadi, an Islamic Relief staff member who was killed in 2019 while trying to deliver aid in Hodeida, Yemen. He is fondly remembered by colleagues for his dedication to helping vulnerable people, despite the grave risks and many challenges facing aid workers in the country.

“The best people are those that bring most benefit to the rest of mankind”

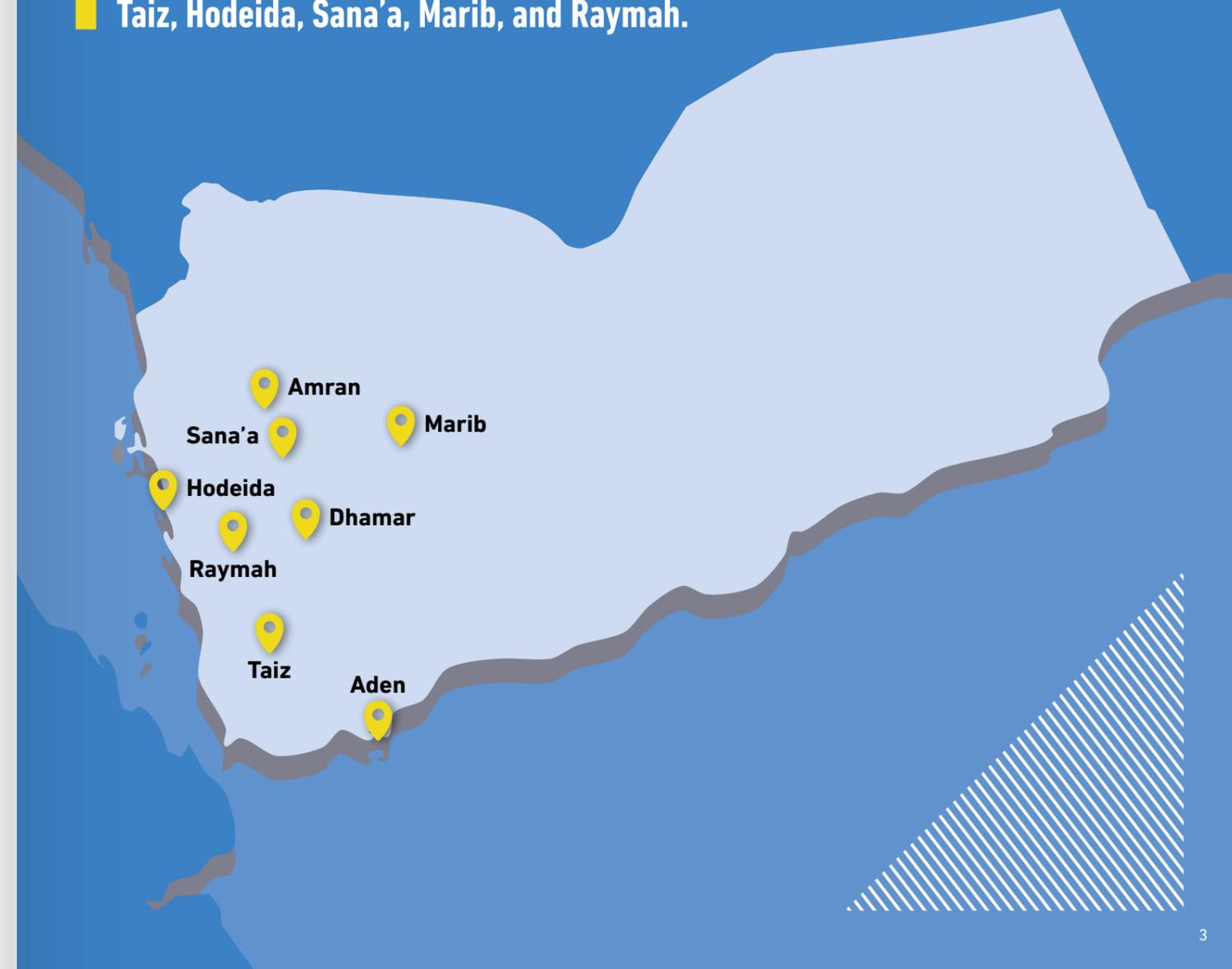
Saying of Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him.

After years of intense conflict, the situation in Yemen is one of the worst humanitarian crises in decades. There are more people in need of humanitarian aid in Yemen than there are in any other country in the world. We provide them with food, clean water, accommodation and essential medical care, as well as preparing communities for disaster and supporting vulnerable children.

Islamic Relief empowers people to achieve sustainable livelihoods, supports education and advocates on behalf of those in need regardless of race, political affiliation, gender or belief. We are an active member of 'clusters' that facilitate close coordination in aid operations between a variety of stakeholders including communities, UN agencies, national and international non-governmental organisations, local authorities and civil society.

WHERE WE WORK

Islamic Relief operates from its country office in Sana'a, Yemen. With a team of more than 3,000 staff and volunteers, supporting operations in over 70 per cent of the country – 17 out of Yemen's 22 governorates – we serve communities across the whole country, including in hard-to-reach areas. We have eight field offices in Dhamar, Amran, Aden, Taiz, Hodeida, Sana'a, Marib, and Raymah.



ESSENTIAL SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES AMID A COMPLEX CRISIS

“While airstrikes were upon us on the first day of Eid, we managed to escape the village with only our clothes, walking long distances,” says Ahmed, 55.

Since fleeing their home in Mandhar, Ahmed and his family have been renting a one-bedroom house in Al-Hudaidah city. Ahmed lives with a disability and has been unemployed for 18 years, so the family struggle to make ends meet.

Working with the UN’s World Food Programme, Islamic Relief Yemen eased the family’s difficulties by providing food packages every month. The packages, which consist of flour, beans, cooking oil, salt and sugar, are a lifeline for families like Ahmed’s.

“The food we receive from this programme is really helping us. Without it we would have been facing even more difficulties,” adds Ahmed.



Since Ahmed’s house was destroyed in the violence, he’s been living in a one-bedroomed home with eight members of his family

Islamic Relief has been a lifeline in Yemen for over two decades. As well as responding to emergency needs with life-saving humanitarian relief, we provide a safety net to families in dire need, remaining on the ground to help vulnerable people when disaster strikes.

The crisis in Yemen has devastated what was already a poor country, with a catastrophic impact on vulnerable communities. It is the largest human-induced crisis in the world today, and very few have escaped its devastating effects.

Most of the population – 80 per cent – do not know where their next meal is coming from. Almost half of Yemeni households have lost their livelihoods, and are struggling to buy even the most basic necessities they need to survive. The collapsed currency has pushed the price even of bread beyond the reach of many families, and Yemen is again teetering on the brink of famine. The severity of this must not be underestimated. These families are at risk of severe malnutrition or even starvation if the situation does not improve. Many have already witnessed these effects, families having lost children and loved ones as a result. Without a swift end to this crisis, many more will lose their lives.

The conflict has devastated the economy and destroyed critical infrastructure. Communities are ill equipped to cope with the challenges of daily life, as many are in dire need of healthcare. Inadequate water and hygiene facilities leave many people at risk of contracting dangerous water-borne diseases such as cholera, and unable to protect themselves from coronavirus.

My heart also goes out to young people. While they should be full of optimism, they face high youth unemployment and gruelling poverty. It is a bleak reality, with few able to cling to the hope of a brighter future.

Islamic Relief has been working in Yemen since 1998, and has been a lifeline for communities throughout the many challenges they have faced. We provide poor families with food, clothing and shelter. We also support vulnerable children, particularly those suffering from the effects of malnutrition, as well as enabling young people to find employment. We have provided essential hygiene facilities and helped stop the spread of disease, including Covid-19.

We are deeply grateful for the partners with whom we work in Yemen, including the World Food Programme, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and our generous supporters from across the globe. It is not least because of their tremendous efforts that we have been able to continue saving lives and alleviating poverty in Yemen.

Islamic Relief sees firsthand the suffering caused by deep poverty and ongoing conflict. We continue to call on the international community to do more to help the people of Yemen, so many of whom are facing indescribable suffering. We need support to help put an end to this brutal war through a ceasefire and political process between the parties. Only when peace prevails in Yemen will its people be able to emerge from poverty and suffering.



Muhammed Zulqarnain Abbas
Country Director
Islamic Relief Yemen

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN YEMEN



Population of Yemen
30 million

24 million people rely on humanitarian aid to survive



80% of the population have been affected by war

4 million people have been uprooted from their homes



Over **20 million** people are in urgent need of healthcare

Around **75%** of the population live below the poverty line



12 million children are considered vulnerable

40% of the population are at risk of starvation



“If there is enough food we eat, and if not we have to be patient,” says Shoeyah, whose son has been malnourished since birth. “The most important thing is that children get their milk. For us adults it’s not a problem if we have to stay hungry. We just eat anything to keep us alive. I hope that my children will have good health in the future and pray to God to stop the war.”

The family cannot return to their home in Yemen’s Haradh region due to the intense fighting, so they live in a shack in Hodeida, waiting and hoping.

WE'VE BEEN PROVIDING LIFESAVING AID IN YEMEN SINCE 1998

1998

Islamic Relief begins supporting those in need.



2006

We begin our orphans and child welfare programme in the country. To date, we have sponsored over 6,000 vulnerable children in Yemen, giving their families a regular stipend towards their basic needs and schooling. Islamic Relief also makes child protection a central component of all our programmes and provides counselling to vulnerable children.

2011

Eritrean refugees flee to Yemen, escaping violence in Ethiopia. Islamic Relief supports hundreds of refugees with essential aid, such as food and shelter.



2013

Islamic Relief launches an extensive project focusing on rural communities in Hodeida, Abyan and Lahj governorates. Tackling rising food insecurity, the scheme promotes sustainable livelihoods and improves living conditions.

2014

Islamic Relief continues its push to improve school attendance in Yemen, by providing food to 1,200 vulnerable students and their families. In addition more than 10,600 children in Hodeida receive nutrient shakes to help treat their severe malnutrition.



2015

The conflict in Yemen escalates, and Islamic Relief provides water wells and food packages to 30,000 families in Sana'a and six other governorates. We give hospitals in Aden urgent medical supplies so they can treat the sick and wounded, while also managing the Mazraq camps that are home to 12,000 displaced families.



2017

There is a deadly outbreak of cholera, classed as the worst in the world by the World Health Organisation and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). Islamic Relief delivers 19 tonnes of medical aid. We also provide 60 tents for three hospitals in Sana'a, cholera medication and other essential medical supplies.

2018

Islamic Relief ramps up our emergency response following two devastating attacks on Hodeida port. Over several months, Islamic Relief works with other non-governmental organisations to call for a ceasefire, which is put in place in December, and signs a joint statement for the 73rd UN General Assembly, calling for a comprehensive ceasefire and humanitarian support.



2019

Renewed attacks in Hajjah governorate kill 22 people and injure many more. Four-year-old Hasham, who is supported by Islamic Relief's orphan sponsorship programme, is shot and killed in crossfire outside his home in central Taiz. Islamic Relief joins other international non-governmental organisations to issue a joint statement calling for a ceasefire and stronger humanitarian intervention. We provide Hasham's family with support for almost a year.

2020

Amid the Covid-19 outbreak, food aid distributed by Islamic Relief is a lifeline for over 2.3 million people. We also distribute facemasks and hand-wash, as well as supporting health facilities and quarantine centres with personal protective items, food supplies, medicine and training. In addition 500,000 people affected by severe flash flooding receive food, shelter and hygiene kits.



CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE IN YEMEN



We support the pleas by the UN Secretary-General for a global ceasefire. As well as our lifesaving programmes in Yemen, we also work to address the root causes of suffering, and advocate alongside others to restore peace in the country. We use our influence to call on the international community to apply pressure to parties involved, for the immediate end to the conflict.

For Islamic Relief, the protection of civilians and aid workers is paramount. We advocate for parties to adhere to international humanitarian law and ensure that injuries and death among civilians and aid workers are avoided at all costs.

As well as this, we make the plea that aid agencies be given unfettered access to the communities they serve. Humanitarian aid should never be politicised, and all barriers to reaching vulnerable people should be removed.

We call on the international community to ensure there is enough funding for critical life-saving programmes in Yemen such as food distributions, livelihoods support, and health, water and hygiene awareness programmes.

Health facilities cannot run without supplies, staff, resources, and the safety to operate. Therefore, we call on our donors to invest in strengthening health systems now to respond to an escalating health crisis, which has been made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic.

We work with authorities and call on donors to ensure that we have the resources available to scale-up Covid-19 preventative measures, awareness and frontline health support.

We also call on the international community to ensure that all ports and airports across Yemen – including Sana'a airport – are opened and kept fully operational, so that fuel and other humanitarian and commercial goods can enter both northern and southern ports of Yemen. Restrictions must be removed in order for food, fuel and humanitarian aid to be able to move safely across the country.

ISLAMIC RELIEF'S PROGRAMMES



LIFE-SAVING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Islamic Relief is a lifeline for thousands of families whose lives are impacted every day by the protracted crisis in Yemen. Responding swiftly to emergencies, we distribute much needed aid such as medicine, food and water as well as clothing, shelter and personal hygiene items. Families pushed to the brink by poverty receive social assistance and support with access to food and safe shelter. Islamic Relief also sponsors thousands of orphaned children, helping to meet their basic needs and making sure they can go to school.

Children benefit from Islamic Relief's emergency water intervention in Dhamar, Yemen.

Islamic Relief has been working with the World Food Programme in Yemen to provide struggling families such as Ali's with essential food supplies.



“Every two months, the organisation provides us with a food basket including flour, cooking oil, beans, sugar, rice and salt”

“We have been really struggling, particularly with a lack of food. Our children are at risk of malnutrition. We're in this position because we simply have no income. We depend solely on the support of charitable organisations in order to feed our families,” says 65-year-old Ali from Maghreb, who is one of millions of Yemenis facing dire living conditions since the war broke out in 2015.

“Food prices have skyrocketed, making life even tougher. We have been facing great difficulty in accessing food, water and healthcare. Transport is very expensive and we are forced to wait at home for help. We have no money, and this is affecting us all. People are living in very difficult circumstances.”

Ali works as a deputy head teacher in the village school, but the ongoing conflict has meant teachers now work on a voluntary basis, leaving him with no income with which to support his family of twelve.

“The devastating, ongoing conflict has meant that the education system has completely broken down, teachers have not been paid for almost five years. We were living well before this war broke out, but as you can see, our conditions have significantly worsened.”



Islamic Relief distributing aid to families in Yemen affected by flooding in 2020. In total, we supported 6,000 families with packages containing essential food items, ready meals and hygiene kits.

ESSENTIAL FOOD SUPPORT

In Yemen, Islamic Relief's food programmes serve huge numbers of people. Eighty per cent of families do not know where their next meal is coming from. When families are forced to flee their homes in an emergency, we make sure they have the food support they need to provide for their children. As one of the UN World Food Programme's biggest partners, we distribute food vouchers and food packages, which contain essential staples such as rice, flour and oil that are a lifeline for families in crisis.

“Islamic Relief have put happiness on our faces, and renewed our hope. While other organisations gave up on us, they never have”



“Before the war broke out, my life was easy and getting a job was simple. Now, life has become very difficult, and finding a job is an impossible task,” says 62-year-old Abdulhakeem from Al-Shimayatain, Taiz, who is unable to find work to support his large family.

“We were forced to sell our car which used to be our main source of income, as well as gold, land and everything we had in order to save our children's lives. Then I started to borrow from others, and became heavily in debt. My wife and I saw extremely difficult days, to the point that many times we would have nothing in the kitchen to feed our children... we were plunged into a devastating hunger.

“We couldn't cope when food prices began skyrocketing because we had nothing in our hands. Living without enough food made me very tired. On top of that, we often had to bring water with jerry cans on donkeys from very far away, exhausting me even further. The ongoing war has completely ravaged my health. I have suffered with abdominal disease, high blood pressure and diabetes due to severe continuous anxiety about how I will feed my family,” says Abdulhakeem.

Islamic Relief implemented an emergency food assistance programme in Taiz, providing monthly food packages to 1,150 vulnerable families. This was a lifesaver for Abdulhakeem and many others.

ESSENTIAL HEALTHCARE AND LIFE-SAVING MALNUTRITION TREATMENT

“My wife and I felt very hopeless and deeply sad when we saw Yasmeen struggling with poor health. Alhamdulillah now she is very healthy”

“When Yasmeen cries, I give her milk which is very diluted with water. I have no milk for her. I thought it was enough, however, she wasn’t getting the nourishment she needed and I nearly lost her,” says Layla, describing how the malnutrition she was experiencing prevented her from breastfeeding her 18-month-old daughter, Yasmeen.

“My husband used to work in Saudi Arabia, but he came back to Yemen without a job, so we have no major source of income. This made our lives very tough. We had no basic necessities to feed our children, and if we were lucky, we would have one meal in the whole day.”

Layla’s husband adds: “On top of this, we live in Althaher village which is very remote. We have to walk many kilometres to reach the health facility. The ongoing war has meant our lives turned from bad to worse.”

Yasmeen was admitted to a health clinic supported by Islamic Relief, where she was treated for severe malnutrition. She was given a course of antibiotics, as well as supplements which help children gain weight. Discharged when her condition improved, the infant was regularly monitored and given the healthcare support she needed to make a full recovery.



Yasmeen was among nearly 333,000 people helped by Islamic Relief’s work to combat malnutrition among under-fives and pregnant and breastfeeding women. Working in communities and health facilities, we provide preventative care and treatment.



“Thank God, my lovely daughter is better now”

Out of an estimated 7.4 million people in Yemen who require services to treat or prevent malnutrition, two million are children under five years of age. Among them was 12-month-old Leila,* from Hodeida. When Islamic Relief staff first met her, she was in desperate need of care but her family could not afford the healthcare she needed. Her father, Ahmad,* is a labourer and struggles to support his family of five on the little he earns building straw houses.

When Leila’s parents brought her to Al Qozan health unit, the doctor diagnosed severe acute malnutrition. “My daughter was skinny and sick. She weighed 4.7 kg. She was so weak and had a small appetite, which intensified her condition,” says her mother, Fatima.*

Islamic Relief built the Al Qozan health unit to provide families with critical care, and continues to support it so that it can provide malnutrition treatment to children like Leila.

“Before the Al Qozan health unit was built, we suffered a lot. The closest health facility was five hours away. That’s too far for me to be able to get regular treatment for my child,” explains Ahmad, whose daughter has since recovered from malnutrition.

“I was committed to bringing Leila regularly to the health facility to take her measurements and get nutritional support. Thank God my lovely daughter is better now. She is healthy and beautiful. The health unit is providing life-saving assistance for my daughter and all the people in the village. It’s thanks to the clinic that Leila can face a much healthier future with her family insha’Allah,” says Ahmad.

*Names changed to protect their identities



“You saved my daughter’s life and many others”

“I have difficulty getting enough food for my family,” says the father of 16-month-old Sumaia. “Sometimes, I cannot provide even one meal a day. It has been very difficult for me to watch my children suffer due to lack of food.”

Due to the ongoing conflict in Yemen, hundreds of thousands of people are without jobs – including Sumaia’s father. With her family struggling with poverty, Sumaia had acute malnutrition until Islamic Relief intervened.

“A woman from Islamic Relief community health volunteers came and knocked at our door. She introduced herself and asked to measure Sumaia’s MUAC (mid-upper arm circumference). She said that my daughter is malnourished and prone to many childhood diseases,” says her mother.

“At first I felt worried about Sumaia’s health situation but then she assured me that this problem can be resolved by taking my daughter to Al Qozan, the nearest health clinic.”

Sumaia was admitted to Al Qozan health unit, where her treatment began. The infant was then transferred to a supplementary feeding programme. After close observation and the healthcare she needed, Sumaia’s MUAC measurement, weight and height have all increased and she is now fully recovered.

“I am very thankful to Islamic Relief and their donors for providing this free service. You saved my daughter’s life and many others,” says Sumaia’s father.

RESTORING HOPE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



“My dream is to study and work in the media”

Many people – especially pregnant women – died on the road,” says Yahya, 18, who lives in Bajil district. The family breadwinner, Yahya earns no more than 1,500 Yemeni Riyal (£4.30) per day transporting people needing medical treatment on his motorbike.

But his village is 15 kilometres from the nearest health centre – and it is a hard journey over rough roads. “My village lacks the basics including livelihoods, schools, water, health centres and paved roads.”

Some 900 people live in Al-Guraizi village. They struggled to get to the nearest health centre, market and livelihood facilities and services. In the rainy season, they had to wait up to a month for the unstable roads around the village to dry out – making access to basic services nearly impossible.

In partnership with the World Food Programme, Islamic Relief intervened to build a new road. It shortened the distance to the nearest facilities to two kilometres, and created many job opportunities for local people.

Now, Yahya is among those hoping for a brighter future.

Young people face enormous challenges in Yemen. Poverty and trauma prevent them from studying, whilst soaring youth employment leaves young people unable to earn a reliable living. Islamic Relief is by their side, helping to meet their basic needs, improving access to high-quality education and nurturing livelihoods. In coordination with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, we help people like Yahya earn a living to be able to provide food and other essentials to help their families, as well as giving them hope for a brighter future.

LIFE-CHANGING CHILD WELFARE INTERVENTIONS

Islamic Relief’s child welfare programming transforms the lives of many vulnerable children. We have sponsored over 6,000 orphaned children in Yemen, giving their families a regular stipend toward their basic needs and schooling.

Seeing education as essential to building a brighter future, we improve access to quality preschool and basic education and target schools with water, sanitation and hygiene interventions. Islamic Relief mainstreams child protection and also provides vital counselling support to vulnerable children.

Wherever possible we integrate our support with other projects, such as providing vocational training and livelihood support to their guardians, offering health check-ups, and distributing food, Eid gifts and essential winter survival items.



“Some children do not have food and they have to work, but I am lucky”

“My father died in 2006 but life was good before the war,” says Fadhl, who lives with his mother and seven siblings in Sa’ada’s Old City. “My brothers used to provide for us, but since the war broke out they don’t have regular work.”

The family fled the city in 2015. When they returned two years later they found their home in a poor state. Every window was broken, and the second floor badly damaged. They cannot afford the repairs.

“We have only solar energy for lighting, we don’t use washing machines and don’t watch TV. The solar energy is barely enough for two hours after sunset, so we sleep early,” adds Fadhl. “My three eldest brothers work in a workshop and they struggle to provide us with the basic food we need. Sometimes they don’t have any work so they cannot help. They are married and they need to provide for their families as well as us.”

Then, Fadl was enrolled in the Islamic Relief orphan sponsorship scheme. As a result the family receive a regular stipend which is a lifeline, helping to meet their basic needs and making sure the children can continue going to school. “If we did not receive help from Islamic Relief, I would have to stop studying and look for work to help my family. There are many children in the same situation, and some of them face worse conditions than me,” says Fadl.

SUPPORTING ORPHANED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES



Remembering Hashem

In 2019 a four-year-old boy was shot and killed by crossfire outside his home in central Taiz, Yemen.

Hashem (pictured above) was being supported through Islamic Relief's orphan sponsorship programme, which provides the families of orphaned children with a regular stipend through which they can meet their basic needs, and send them to school.

"No family should have to experience pain like this, and no more innocent lives should be lost," says Islamic Relief country director for Yemen, Muhammed Zulqarnain Baloch. After Hashem's tragic death, we have continued to provide his mother with financial support, ensuring that she can provide for her four remaining children. We support his two brothers as part of our orphan sponsorship programme and ensure that the family have the support they need through the winter. We also continue to provide them with essential food parcels through Ramadan, as well as qurbani meat and gifts with which to celebrate Eid.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROGRAMMES

Over two-thirds of Yemenis require support to meet their basic water, sanitation and hygiene needs – including 12.6 million who are in acute need. Years of underdevelopment, extensive damage from conflict, unstable fuel imports and natural disasters have left water and sanitation systems struggling to provide even minimum services.

Islamic Relief aims to provide communities with reliable water sources and deliver hygiene sessions to help prevent the spread of water-borne diseases. We also work with displaced and host communities to provide emergency water, sanitation, waste management and hygiene services to help vulnerable families.



"Now, we no longer struggle to get clean water. We can get as much as we need and the water source is only a few metres from people's houses. We no longer have to walk a long distance, just to collect unsafe water"

"The health facility where I work lacked access to safe and adequate water. There was no functional water source," says Abdulmajeed from Al-Batana, which is known for its scarcity of clean water.

"Whenever we managed to get water, we had to spend a great deal of time and effort before we could use it. We would depend on water trucking to fill up the water tank at our health facility, but we could barely afford the cost of this, so we really struggled."

Islamic Relief equipped the main water well of the health facility with a solar system and repaired the broken water sources. It is a sustainable solution that is also helping the environment.

FACING COVID-19



As in so many other countries, Covid-19 threatened to push many struggling families in Yemen over the edge, as they lost livelihoods and loved ones and battled with a lack of information and basic medical services. With the healthcare sector in Yemen already on the brink of collapse, many people with symptoms of the disease were unable to access treatment, while fear of contracting coronavirus and the stigma attached to it prevented others from seeking medical attention.

Islamic Relief provided essential healthcare for thousands of people affected by the outbreak. We helped prevent the spread of the virus by distributing emergency hygiene items, facemasks, gloves and medical equipment to healthcare workers.

Islamic Relief also gave oxygen and personal protective equipment to healthcare facilities, and provided healthcare workers with training on infection prevention and control, and how best to care for patients with Covid-19.

We supported people in quarantine centres in Sana'a and Dhamar with ready-to-eat meals, hygiene and dignity kits. In addition particularly vulnerable families received financial and livelihoods support and a lifeline through an emergency food assistance programme.

Islamic Relief worked hard to prevent the spread of Covid-19, providing training and medical supplies to healthcare facilities, as well as supporting those in quarantine centres. We were a lifeline for vulnerable families whose livelihoods were lost amid the pandemic, helping to ease their burden through financial support.



Islamic Relief staff distributing food vouchers to help support vulnerable families affected by the Covid-19 pandemic

“I hope that my house is repaired and that my children can go to school and start studying, so that they may have a bright future”

“Every day, I go to the market to see whether or not I can find work. I struggle in this way from dawn until the sunset. Sometimes I find work, and sometimes I don't. I either go back home with something for my family to eat, or return with empty hands,” says father-of-seven Raheem, from Tawahee.

“We live in just one room, but its ceiling is damaged. I have been trying to repair it for six years, but I couldn't afford it because I do not have enough money. When it rains, we must find shelter elsewhere.

“We also lack access to water and we are really struggling with a lack of electricity. We are going through very difficult circumstances to the point that I cannot even afford the most basic food and medicine. My wife has cervical cancer, and we cannot treat her. Whenever my children get sick, we struggle to send them to the nearest health facility.

“The war has meant that life has become tough. Due to the severe poverty and starvation we face I feel that we are dead bodies walking. Covid-19 made an already difficult situation even worse. It has left me feeling devastated and depressed. Most of my neighbours' conditions are equally as dire. The pandemic meant that we could not even go out to look for work.

“Islamic Relief provided much-needed support. They provided me with food, helping me to feed my family during the pandemic,” says Raheem.

Raheem now dreams of a better future for his family, with the help of Islamic Relief.

FURTHER HEALTHCARE SUPPORT

Islamic Relief works to support the collapsing healthcare system in Yemen, providing life-saving care to some of the world's most vulnerable people. We assist health centres, hospitals, renal dialysis centres, prosthetic and physiotherapy centres, providing them with the equipment and training they so desperately need.

We strengthen the management of childhood illnesses and reproductive health programmes by training health workers. We also provide health facilities with essential medication, laboratory solutions and vital equipment. This includes medical machines required for manufacturing artificial limbs, and specialist equipment required for gynaecology, orthopaedics, paediatrics, psychiatry and more.



“The intervention of Islamic Relief helps put hospitals in a better position to meet healthcare needs. In the past, our hospital would only be able to manage to treat 20 patients a day... We are now able to manage more than 80 cases”

“We don't have the chance to treat many patients, because our hospital lacks medicine, equipment and staff,” says Dr Asma'a Al Kamil, a general physician at the rural hospital of Al Sharq, explaining that infectious and preventable diseases are spreading rapidly.

“The health situation in Yemen is deteriorating, especially after the war broke out in 2015. The majority of health workers have fled from rural areas to the cities, seeking better living conditions and leaving people living in the countryside without sufficient healthcare. They are suffering from preventable diseases because of a lack of healthcare support.

“Torrential rain, a fuel crisis and Covid-19 have further exacerbated the humanitarian situation. According to the UN, only 51 per cent of health facilities are fully functional due to damage, staff shortages and a lack of medical supplies,” explains Dr Asma'a.

Islamic Relief implemented a project in Hodeida, Dhamar, Amran and Sa'ada governorates to support health facilities with essential medication, medical supplies and equipment. The project also provides health workers with essential training and incentives to ensure health facilities function well.

“The incentives we receive from the organisation play an integral role in changing our lives for the better. They help us to continue delivering health services to the most vulnerable people.”



Samra'a and Malak

Aged eleven and nine, Samra'a and Malak have been diagnosed with a brain condition. Its cause is unknown. The sisters are finding their mobility is increasingly deteriorating, and they struggle with daily tasks such as eating, going to the bathroom and getting dressed. Their doctor recommended a genetic examination to confirm the cause of the illness, but poverty has pushed this beyond their reach – especially since their father recently lost his job.

Samra'a and Malak each received a wheelchair from Islamic Relief. Enabling the children to move independently once more, the wheelchairs have boosted their mental health and social wellbeing as they are now able to resume their studies, play and socialise with their friends.



“I hope I get better so I can return to work”

Sadeq, 36, used to earn a living selling mobile phone accessories and computer hardware. He was heading out of Taiz city to sell his goods to traders, when fighting broke out on the road.

“I was on a bus with other passengers,” recalls the father-of-five. “The driver was shot and killed, so we could not flee the area. Amid shouting and terror on the bus I was holding my goods in my hands. A few minutes later, some passengers were killed and others injured, including me. I only remember the death of the driver because he was the first victim inside the bus. When a bullet hit my head, I fell unconscious and I was taken to hospital.

“I was in a coma. After one month I recovered consciousness and I was shocked that my left hand and leg were paralysed and I am stammering when I speak.

“Afterwards I was unable to work, and my family became dependent on charities to help us with food and health care. I needed intensive physical therapy, ointments and medicines.

“Islamic Relief provided me with splints for my leg and hand, physical therapy, medicines and crutches.

Islamic Relief has supported three physiotherapy and prosthetic centres in Sana'a, Taiz and Aden. The centres help people to recover from injuries or live with lifelong conditions. We are providing help with maintenance, materials and financial support for staff.

“I am optimistic about the future, I hope that my leg and hand became better so I can get back to work.”

LIFTING SPIRITS DURING RAMADAN AND EID

Every Ramadan, Islamic Relief provides vulnerable families in Yemen with food parcels containing essential items such as oil, flour and dates.

The food parcels allow them to be better prepared for the month of Ramadan, easing their worries about how to access food with which to end their fast each evening.



“I feel happy that my children have food”

“We hardly get enough food and sometimes there is no food at all in our house. It’s been a long time since we ate chicken, meat and fish... during the last three years we have been really struggling to find enough food,” says Gabra, a mother-of-two who has been struggling to provide for her family since her husband died three years ago. Since fleeing their home, she and her children have been living with her sister in Taiz.

“The [Ramadan] food basket plays a huge role in helping displaced people in particular as we are in dire need of food. It is very difficult when Ramadan comes; you’ve lost your home and your children do not have proper food,” says Gabra.

“Now I can say that I have enough food for the whole month of Ramadan and I feel happy that I can ensure my children have food during the holy month.”

We also run a qurbani programme in Yemen, providing meat to vulnerable families so they can celebrate Eid free from worrying about how they will eat.

Wherever possible, we integrate our seasonal food distributions with other humanitarian and development programmes, so we can reach the families of sponsored orphans, for example.



“We don’t usually have meat... I am truly thankful from my heart”

“Our living conditions have worsened since the war began,” says Elham, who lives with her children in dire conditions in Dhamar city. Unable to make ends meet, the 28-year-old relies on charity.

“I rent a three-roomed house, it costs 12,000 Yemeni Riyals (£4.30) per month. We pay for it with help from other people. I collect water from charity water tanks or from the mosque, which is about 30 minutes’ walk away. The water is salty but there is no other facility for drinking water.”

With such daily hardship, there is little respite even during religious festivals, but Elham dreamt of giving her children a joyful Eid.

“We wished to have meat, Eid sweets, and clothes for our children. We hoped to be able to go out with our children for a picnic to cheer them up, but Eid day is like any other day,” says Elham.

Then Elham received a qurbani meat pack from Islamic Relief, which helped to ease her burden and meant that she could give her children the Eid they deserved.

CELEBRATING EID

A widespread tradition of Eid is the exchanging of gifts, known as Eidi or Eidiya. For children, receiving Eid gifts is unsurprisingly a key highlight of the day and many look forward to being spoilt by parents and other relatives.

Every year, we run a global programme to provide gifts to children whose caregivers are unable to do so, giving them something to smile about despite the difficult circumstances they face.

These gifts provide children with useful items such as Eid clothes, school bags and other educational equipment. We also provide gifts which will simply be enjoyed by children, such as toys, balloons and sweets. In Yemen, every year we provide gift packs to around 600 children supported through our orphan sponsorship programme in Yemen.



“Our children are also given Eid gifts, such as toys and sweets, which brings smiles to their faces”

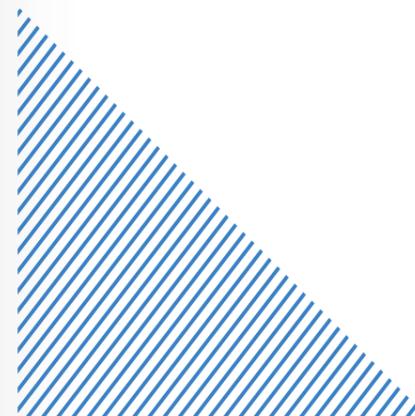
“My living conditions greatly deteriorated after the death of my husband. We lost our only breadwinner and we don’t have any fixed source of income. I have been facing great difficulty in providing my children with enough food” says mother-of-four Ashwaq, from Taiz.

“The dire conditions caused by war worsened our suffering and we became victims of extreme hunger, disease and poverty.

“We have no electricity. We use solar power which is barely enough for lighting, we don’t have amenities like washing machines which would make life easier. It’s also extremely difficult to get appropriate healthcare in Yemen due to the collapse of the health system.

“I’m living with my children in a very small house. It consists of just two rooms and a small bathroom and kitchen, we don’t have any windows.

“We are completely dependent on the support of generous people and charitable organisations, because I don’t have any money or a job with which to support my children. Alhamdulillah we are one of many families in the area which are now benefiting from Islamic Relief’s orphan sponsorship programme. We receive regular money which allows us to buy food, meat and clothes. I also have the opportunity to send my children to school, where they’re gaining a good education.”



OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Since our work in Yemen began:



Around 13 million vulnerable people have benefitted



We have invested around £190 million in humanitarian and development programming



Over 6 million people have received food aid



We have provided essential healthcare to over 2 million people



Over 800,000 people have gained access to clean drinking water



Our child welfare projects have helped approximately 8,000 children



Over 6,000 children have been supported through our orphans sponsorship programme



Our Ramadan and qurbani programmes provided over 2 million people with essential food support



THANK YOU TO THOSE SUPPORTING OUR WORK IN YEMEN

Our work in Yemen is made possible by the generosity of our supporters, donors and partners around the world. We warmly thank the individuals, businesses and institutional donors who have supported our operations, which are a lifeline for so many vulnerable people. Together, we are saving lives and giving hope to those suffering in Yemen.





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