

ISLAMIC RELIEF USA

PAKISTAN

PAVING THE PATH TO DEVELOPMENT



REBUILDING COMMUNITIES

RESTORING HOPE

The global Islamic Relief family has been providing services in Pakistan since 1992, opening an office in Islamabad in 1994. Since then, we have expanded to operate five offices that provide services from one end of the country to the other.

Throughout the years, our generous donors have sent comprehensive humanitarian assistance, from health care to water programs to vocational training. They have also sponsored thousands of orphans to give these vulnerable children a chance to have a better life and the knowledge that someone cares.

Islamic Relief also has been at the forefront of emergency relief efforts—including the 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods—and our teams are working in flood-damaged villages to help rebuild homes and lives.



FLOOD RELIEF

In July and August 2010, the skies opened on Pakistan, pouring water that rose higher until it overwhelmed four states and 21 million people. It was the worst flood in the country's history.

The water swept through entire provinces, reducing villages to rubble. It killed thousands of people, and left millions homeless. The year's crops—almost ready for harvest—were destroyed, and stagnant water covered the fields where farmers needed to plant seeds for the following year's crops. The chaos of the floods was followed by the silent sweep of waterborne diseases that felled victims with cholera and diarrhea.

With a permanent presence in the country for nearly two decades, Islamic Relief Pakistan was able to respond immediately with lifesaving assistance funded in part by Islamic Relief USA.

Workers handed out food and hygiene kits to families as rescue boats pulled stranded survivors to safety. Teams set up shelters. Mobile health clinics drove in and treated long lines of injured and ill men, women and children. New water treatment plants began pumping out safe, clean water.

In the early months after the flood, the emergency supplies brought relief to more than half a million people.





VILLAGE INTEGRATED REHABILITATION

After the floodwaters receded, massive devastation remained. Entire villages were left in shambles, and families had no resources to rebuild their homes and lives. Islamic Relief's donors are helping rebuild one village at a time. Here is some of the progress to date:

SHELTER:

- Hundreds of strong brick homes built for families

WATER AND SANITATION:

- 45 water pumps repaired
- 6,000 feet of drainage constructed
- More than 700 latrines constructed
- Dozens of solid waste collection points established
- Local leaders trained in water management
- More than 500 hygiene sessions conducted to help reduce disease outbreaks

HEALTH:

- Tens of thousands of patients treated at health camps and medical facilities

- Prenatal and postnatal care provided to women
- Children screened and treated for acute malnutrition
- Malaria diagnosis and treatment provided
- Women and school students trained in health and hygiene

LIVELIHOOD:

- Small flocks of chickens given to more than 700 households
- Livestock distributed to more than 350 families
- Seeds and fertilizer delivered to farmers
- Four irrigation channels constructed
- Gardening and farming toolkits distributed to families
- Vegetable garden training and seeds provided to 650 women
- Commercial vegetable plots prepared
- Skill enhancement training sessions conducted
- Community organizations established and local leaders trained

VILLAGE INTEGRATED REHABILITATION

Meet Zahida

Zahida Bibi is 30 years old, with five daughters and two sons, ages 2 to 20. Her husband is a driver. She used to supplement his income before the floods by working in nearby fields at harvest time.

“Before the floods, I was living an ordinary life with my family,” she told Islamic Relief. Then came the floods.

“The time my family spent in the open air without any shelter near the bank of the canal in our village was the most horrific time for us. We remained in this vulnerable condition for one month.”

They had a little food with them, but it wasn't enough for a healthy diet. With village life destroyed and the people scattered, there was no more work there for her husband, so he went to the city to find what work he could as a driver.

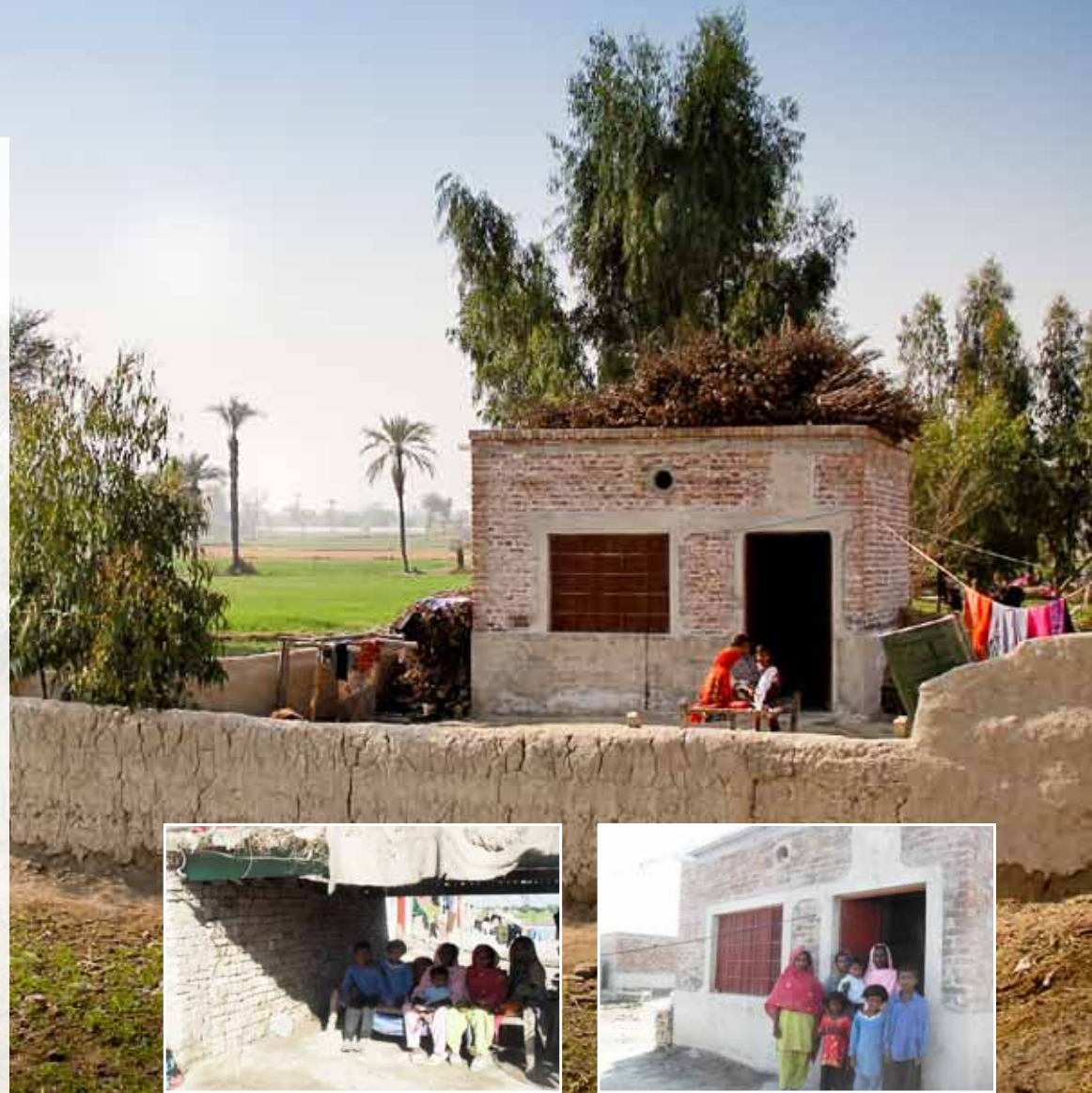
“Our lives were at stake, and my husband and I were worried about our future,” she said.

“Islamic Relief supported us in the difficult time of the floods—I received food packs, winter kits, and nonfood items. I also received meat for Eid al-Adha.

“After that, Islamic Relief came to our village to rehabilitate our lives. When I came back to my village with my family, there were very few houses left. My own house was destroyed, and I could not imagine how to rebuild my life, but Islamic Relief made me able to live my normal life. I feel very happy when I see my new permanent shelter with sanitation facility.”

Zahida could not return to her previous work because the local farmland was damaged by the floods. But she is receiving training and seeds to grow her own garden.

“I started sowing vegetables, and hopefully it will be enough food for my family,” she said. “... By growing vegetables at home, I can save money ... I can also sell some vegetables to help with my children's educational expenses.”



BEFORE: Zahida's temporary shelter



AFTER: Zahida and her children at their new home provided by Islamic Relief

COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

After the 2005 earthquake devastated parts of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Islamic Relief's local team—already established in the region—rushed to bring relief. Then they continued working to improve people's lives long-term through the Community Livelihood Improvement Project.

One major focus of this project is social mobilization: Islamic Relief helped facilitate new community organizations and train local leaders, so villagers can identify problems and find solutions effectively.

Another focus has been constructing drinking-water supply systems to make clean, safe water more accessible to families. Girls and women used to spend many hours carrying water from faraway sources. Now they can go to school or earn an income instead.

Meet Kalsoom Bibi...

Kalsoom Bibi lives in a village in Bagh in Pakistan-administered Kashmir with her husband and three children. When her husband began suffering from epilepsy, he could no longer work as a driver and support his family. Kalsoom Bibi struggled to earn enough money for her family to live on. So she asked her local Female Community Organization—facilitated by Islamic Relief—for help. They arranged for her to attend a two-month Islamic Relief training course on advanced tailoring techniques.

Before the course, Kalsoom had basic knowledge of tailoring, but she did not know more advanced techniques of design, needlework and color combination, so she did not earn much for her work. After the advanced-level training, the clothes she makes are in higher demand and she earns more money than ever before. She's hoping to be able to pay for school expenses for her children, and to complete some badly needed construction on her house, which only has a temporary roof.

"I am very happy now, and I'm thankful to Islamic Relief for providing advanced tailoring training to make me a skilled and valuable part of my family as well as community. InshaAllah, now I can provide an education for my children, and better shelter for my family."

"I hope Islamic Relief and its donors will help other needy and poor people to earn a livelihood ... because people need a more reliable source of income to come out of poverty."



Left: Kalsoom Bibi at her home, with her children

Shamsa Tanveer is 7 years old. When she was very young her father died of a heart attack; but her struggles began even before that...



ORPHANS: *A VISION OF HOPE*

When a child loses a parent, they not only lose a piece of their heart, but they also lose many opportunities as well. Without the family's main breadwinner, they may not have enough food ... or health care ... or even the chance to go to school.

Shamsa—who was born blind—knows what this life is like. After her father died, her mother and older sister struggled to feed the family on about 10 cents a day they earned folding thousands of little envelopes out of old magazines.

Shamsa is now sponsored by Islamic Relief's orphan sponsorship program, and a new world has opened for her. In addition to receiving food, clothes and medical care, she is now attending school, where she has learned to read Braille.

Shamsa's favorite subject is English. As she leans over her Islamic studies book, her fingers trail lightly across the page and the sounds come gently from her mouth: "Bismillah al-Rahman al-Raheem ..."

Islamic Relief's orphan sponsorship program currently supports more than 25,000 children like Shamsa worldwide; more than 7,000 of them are sponsored by U.S. donors.

These generous sponsors make a world of difference to each child. They give the orphans an opportunity to grow and prosper and learn—and a chance for a brighter future. And, maybe best of all, the child knows someone is looking out for them—that someone cares.

THANK YOU
for being our partner





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