

زندگی شمع کی صورت ہو خدایا میری



قال رسول الله ﷺ:

أنا وكافل اليتيم في الجنة هكذا وأشار بالسبابة والوسطى وفرج بينهما-

The Prophet (PBUH) said, "I and the person who looks after an orphan and provides for him/her, will be (together) in paradise like this" - putting his index and middle fingers together. (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

Child
Welfare
Programme





Four-year-old Manahil Hameed (IR sponsored child) from Bahara Kahu.

Islamic Relief (IR), an international relief and development organisation founded in the UK in 1984 works in 25 countries promoting sustainable socio-economic development empowering local communities and helping people to fulfill their potential.

Islamic Relief's Child Welfare Programme (CWP) is an essential element in its efforts to achieve the IR vision of a caring world where the basic requirements of people in need are fulfilled.

CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMME – CWP

Every child dreams of going to school and making a better life for him or herself. Just like adults, children need support; they need a supportive environment in which they can fulfill their dreams. This is especially so for orphans, the poor and marginalised. By supporting children who have suffered tragic losses, IR through its CWP, is contributing to build up the next generation of teachers, entrepreneurs and leaders. The inclusion of poor orphans and marginalised children is not only a matter of social justice and the realisation of universal human rights; it is an essential investment in the future of society!

IR believes that talent and virtue should be nurtured in all children regardless of wealth or birth. No matter what we look like or where we come from or who our parents are, each child should have the opportunity to fulfill their God-given potential.

The hearts of small children are delicate organs. A cruel beginning in this world can mean that the heart of a hurt child can shrink and it becomes hard and pitted as the seed of a peach. Or, again, the heart of such a child may fester and swell until it is hurt by the most ordinary things.

It is not the physical pain that endangers orphans the most. It is the mental pain caused by stress from years and years of being neglected, pushed aside, disregarded, unloved, and made to feel undeserving. Even more it is the lack of unconditional love, the right to be accepted, as a child and to be loved, as a child. Love heals people – both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it.

Let us hope that one day all children in every part of the world will be equally cherished, equally protected and equally cared for – if not by their birth parents – by families and other guardians around the world. IR's CWP is trying to contribute to this effort.



One-to-One Sponsorship for Orphans – OTO

Serious illness and the death of the breadwinner often leave widows and children very vulnerable and often destitute. In a study entitled “Social Security and Social Networks among the Urban Poor in Pakistan”, widows were found to be the poorest in the community, particularly those without family support. A sudden loss of livelihood brings tremendous hardship and suffering to an orphan and his/her mother. Due to this financial crisis, the family is forced to withdraw children from school and they end up working at hazardous places like auto workshops, kilns and factories and some end up begging or become the victims of child trafficking.

IR's One-to-One Orphan Sponsorship Programme is supporting needy and deserving orphans in different rural and urban areas of Pakistan -- Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Mansehra – as well as in AJK – Muzaffarabad, Neelum, and Bagh currently covers 2,386 orphans. More than 1,000 have already benefited from this programme since 1993. Orphans and children from the poorest of the poor families are targeted and provided with support to help meet basic needs. According to an assessment report the sponsored orphan families meet 40% to 80% of their household needs through IR's sponsorship programme.

The aim is to assist the orphans to live and grow up like ordinary children, helping those who dropped out of school after their fathers' death to re-enrol and fulfill their basic food, health and education needs. The project also helps boost child's self-esteem while relieving the widows from full time work so that they can have some time to look after their children.



Sponsorship funds are paid directly to the orphan's guardian every quarter. Orphans are regularly monitored to ensure that they are receiving the full benefits of sponsorship. Children receive regular health checks and all school-aged children receive education with the help of this sponsorship money. Housing conditions are also assessed and improvements are made where possible. Recreational activities are arranged for children to provide them with an opportunity to relax and play.

Local Sponsorship for Orphans by Pakistani Donors

Apart from the regular OTO project that is exclusively funded by individual donors from overseas, there is a scheme for local donors from Pakistan which now covers 28 children.

In order to support and enrich the services provided under the Child Welfare Programme a number of other projects are planned and being implemented in different areas of Pakistan and AJK which are summarised below.

Legal Aid for widows – LAW (2005 to 2006)

This European Commission (EC) funded project provided 600 widowed families with legal aid in different aspects of their lives like birth registration, obtaining computerised National Identity Cards (CNIC), obtaining death certificates, opening bank accounts, resolution of land and inheritance disputes, getting a pension, loan readjustments/waivers and tax exemption. Families were also sensitised about their legal rights and how to get these materialised in their daily lives.

Adult Literacy Centres – ALC

Another component of LAW project was the adult literacy centre which provided basic education to widows and older female members of poor and marginalised families. This covered basic arithmetic, reading and writing and the art of effective communication.



Orphans Computer Literacy Centre – OCLP (2007)

A centre was setup in Muzaffarabad (AJK) to provide basic computer skills to sponsored children and their siblings. A total of 220 children benefitted from the centre's services.

Supporting Community Resiliency in Emergency Areas of Mardan and Buner districts – SCREAM (2009)

The conflict in Swat and Buner districts of KPK displaced up to 2.5 million people but from August 2009 district Buner was declared safe for IDPs to return. IR worked to help 78,761 persons in Mardan and Buner districts.

A Mercy Centre Complex, roughly the size of an acre in a highly populated area, was the venue for a coherent and comprehensive package of services ensuring the survival and strengthening of the coping mechanisms of individuals affected by the conflict in KPK. Eight Mercy Centres were set up in the project area. In each of the Mercy Centres, there were a maximum of four satellite centres. Services in the mercy centres included: a health clinic, a psycho-social intervention centre, a child tracking facility (for children who had been separated from their families), a meeting place for women for mutual support, an education centre for children to continue their education, and a play school.

A satellite centre contained same services but without the psycho-social intervention centre. These were situated in 19 small villages and were staffed under the supervision of a mobile psychologist.

Weaving Awareness in Schools & Homes on Health & Hygiene - WASH (2010 to 2011)

WASH project aimed to improve basic health and hygiene of the very poor families living in Rawalpindi. The project encircled 600 female headed households for this intervention with a combination of both, soft and hard components as it focused on awareness raising as well as providing them with materials to implement their knowledge. Educating the sponsored orphan families on these issues helped to reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases among children and their caregivers. This was achieved through small group sessions linked with hygiene kit distribution. WASH project has contributed its share in an effort to bring a positive change in the health and hygiene of the sponsored orphan families.



Other In-door & Out-door Activities with Children

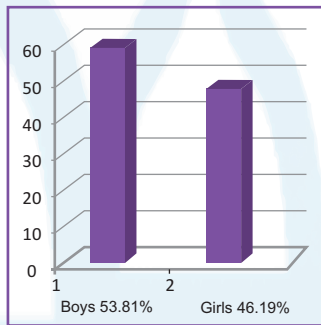
Every year different indoor and outdoor activities are planned for the children to provide them healthy and enjoyable environment away from their routine life in order to boost their self-esteem and self-confidence and to assure them that are very important for the society at large.

In 2010 children and their care-givers participated in the following activities:

- A daylong recreational visit to the Japanese Children Park and the Zoo in Islamabad under the theme of “Islamic Relief Celebrates A Few Smiling Moments with Sponsored Children”
- Universal Children's Day was celebrated in a local hotel with sponsored children and both were sensitized on their basic rights.
- A one-day First Aid Training for the mothers of sponsored children was arranged to help them gain a very useful life skill they badly need to look after their children.
- A movie show, Children of Heaven was arranged for the sponsored children at Islamic Relief's country office. After the movie, children songs and other different activities were arranged.
- A painting session was also arranged for the sponsored children and they were provided a chance to express their feelings through colours.

Detail of Sponsored Children

Area	Boys	Girls	Total Children
Rawalpindi	498	429	927
Mansehra	589	497	1,086
AJK	197	176	373
Total:	1,284	1,102	2,386



a few success stories



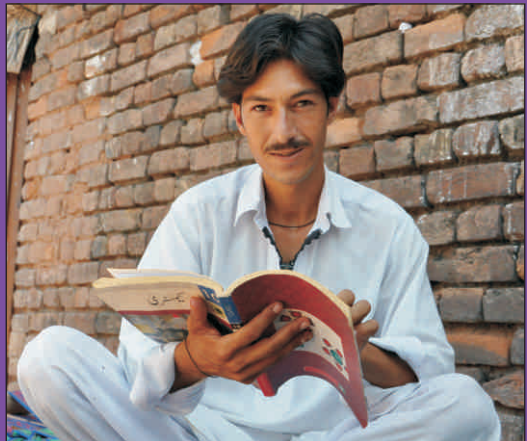
Rabia Rubab completes her B.com.

“

I was in 8th class when IR started to sponsor me and now I am a graduate. I am thankful to those who extended their support and sponsoring many children like me. Now it is our responsibility to equip ourselves with modern techniques to play a constructive role to achieve better society”

“

Before he died, my father was a gardener but through Islamic Relief's sponsorship I managed to get a good education”



Muhammad Rashid is a student of Matriculation.



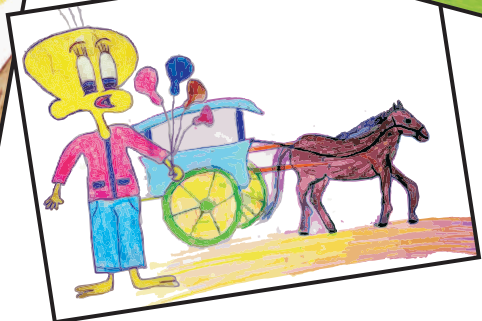
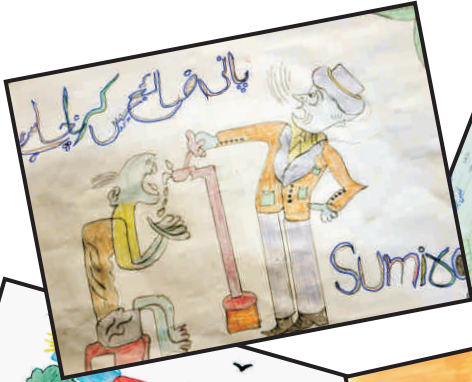
Fatima Amin a student of A levels.

“ I am a student of A levels. Islamic Relief's sponsorship has helped me continue my studies ”

“ For 10 years I received sponsorship for my education. I was a child and now grown up. I want to be a civil engineer to fulfill the dreams of my mother ”



Waqas Ahmad is studying Civil Engineering.





Islamic Relief Worldwide
19 Rea Street South
Birmingham B5 6LB
www.islamic-relief.com

Islamic Relief
Country Office
Plot 2, Street 7,
G-10/2, Islamabad

Tel: +92 51 211 4212-17
Fax: +92 51 211 4170
E-mail: info@irp.org.pk
Website: islamic-relief.org.pk