

ISLAMIC  
RELIEF  
CANADA

بلا  
نبنی  
مصر

LET'S  
REBUILD  
EGYPT



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD.



My dear brothers and sisters, the people of Egypt have struggled and sacrificed for the betterment of their nation and their people for a long time. An Islamic Relief delegation had the honor of traveling to Egypt to meet with the minister of development Gouda Abdel Khalek, the minister of health Ashraf Hatem, grand mufti Ali Gomaa and Al-Azhar shaykh Ahmed el-Tayeb.

Together, we are developing plans to provide assistance and aid to communities throughout the country.

During our visit, the Islamic Relief team was distributing food packages to families in dire need of assistance. One of those recipients was a 106-year-old woman who was living alone despite being legally blind. And yet, even with those circumstances, the warmth of her spirit enveloped us all.

That sister's spirit is what drives donors and volunteers, like you, to work hand-in-hand with Islamic Relief Canada to make "the mother of the world" – the entire world – a better place. It is through your support that relief efforts are being implemented in Egypt to supply food to the most impoverished families, to support orphans and to repatriate Egyptian migrant workers who were left stranded by the conflict in Libya.

Together with our Ambassadors Hanan Turk and Mustafa Hosny. Each of these individuals has dedicated his or her life to bringing awareness to and improving conditions for the people of Egypt. They will share with us their individual stories and provide a first-hand glimpse into what it means to be Egyptian and what it means to be a humanitarian. Please join me in thanking them for their work.

On behalf of the entire staff at Islamic Relief USA, I sincerely thank you for all you have done and continue to do in support of such important relief efforts. May Allah (swt) bless, guide and protect you always. And may we all be reminded, through Allah's (swt) grace and generosity, to appreciate what we have and what we give and to embody that spirit of altruism with our neighbors.

Jazakum Allahu khayran,

Islamic Relief Canada Team

# AMBASSADOR



## MUSTAFA HOSNY

Mustafa Hosny is a philanthropist and a televangelist who hosts several programs on Iqraa TV, a channel that provides programming on everyday topics important to Muslims. Mustafa is a well-respected speaker, and has traveled around the world to present seminars on topics of faith and wellness. Mustafa stays well-connected to his local community, and dedicates much of his time to teaching personality-building at local schools and delivering sermons at area mosques.

# RS OF HOPE



## HANAN TURK

Hanan Turk is a television and movie actress, and Asia Pacific Screen Awards nominee. For the past four years, Hanan has served as a goodwill ambassador for Islamic Relief. "I am a celebrity here on Earth," says Hanan, "but what I want is to be a celebrity in Heaven, in the eyes of God."

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# POVERTY

Many Egyptians struggle to get enough food and the political upheaval added to their challenges. 44% of Egyptians live on less than \$2 per day. (Source: UN) Political unrest worsened the existing unemployment, high food prices and poverty.

The economy in Egypt shut down for weeks. Many people lost their jobs. Major sources of the country's income dried up as tourists and investors fled.

The economy has not recovered. The Egyptian pound has dropped sharply. Unemployment is up.

The problems have hit the poor the hardest, and they have nowhere to turn.

# THE HELP

In Egypt, the term slum applies to both dilapidated housing and informal settlements. Informal settlements are housing constructed in violation of legislation related to subdivision of land, land use, construction or registration of property. Without government recognition, they usually lack infrastructure like paved roads, sewer systems, schools and health facilities. Egypt's government and other NGOs have prioritized work on slum housing, so Islamic Relief is planning to focus on rehabilitating the informal settlements, or ashawaiyyat.





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## FAMILY SPONSORSHIP

Egypt has long struggled with poverty and unemployment, and the political upheaval in early 2011 added to these challenges. In some areas such as the town of Ayyat, unemployment has reached 20% – one in five adults looking for a job can't find one. Average income in Ayyat is 60 Egyptian pounds per month – about \$10 – and prices have been rising. Islamic Relief's new family sponsorship program will help families fulfill their minimum needs. It will allow them to pay for enough food to nourish their families, health care when they're sick, and education costs so they can break the cycle of poverty. Beyond the basic needs, this program will give families a sense of security and stability, and help them get back on their feet so they can support themselves once again.

## WAHID MALAK ABDEL SHAHID

His family is one of the few Christian families in the neighborhood. He says there is no difference between him and his Muslim neighbors: they all suffer the same conditions in their neighbourhood and they all support each other. His 8- and 4-year-old grandsons help prepare bamiya for sale to supplement their income. It's still not enough.

Islamic Relief helps the family by delivering food staples each month, and checking on them regularly to make sure they're OK. Wahid says: "Islamic Relief has been so good to us—our family is their family." He just wants a good life for his family, for his neighbors and for the entire region of Beedif: "I have hope that the future will be beautiful—we love our area."





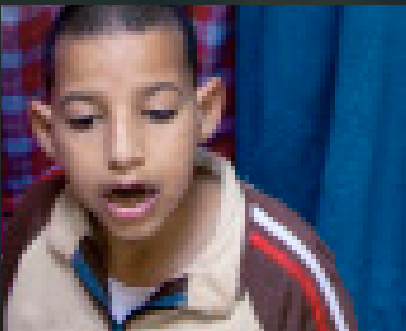


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# ONE TO ONE ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP

Orphans thrive best when they can remain in the loving environment of a family member's home, but in impoverished communities, it can be hard for a family to take on another child to feed, clothe and educate. Islamic Relief's orphan sponsorships, which started in late September, enable guardians to provide food, health care and an education so orphans can grow and develop like any other child – in the care of someone who loves them.

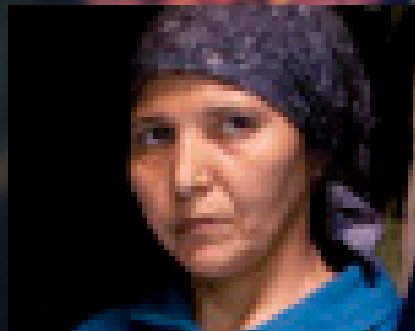
Sponsored orphans receive supplies such as book bags, stationery and pencils to help them succeed in school. They also receive regular medical checkups and vaccinations, and their caretakers learn how to best help them maintain a healthy lifestyle. Gifts and visits brighten the children's holidays. Within two months, 156 Egyptian orphans had found sponsors, but another 100 were still waiting.



# ILHAM AND HALA

Ilham is 15 years old and her sister Hala is 16. They both have heart conditions and anemia. Ilham often gets dizzy and faints. Ilham and Hala were caught in a vicious cycle of malnutrition and weakness. They did not even have the energy to go to school. Now, with the help of Islamic Relief's orphan sponsorship program, the girls have had several heart surgeries to try to repair their weak hearts.

Their mother, Umm Mohammed, is thankful that Islamic Relief is helping the girls receive proper medical care and is also helping her younger son Mohammed, who is mentally handicapped, to receive support and developmental therapy.





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# EARLY INTERVENTION & REHABILITATION CENTER

The Early Intervention Resource Center (EIRC) in Cairo has provided rehabilitation services to children with special needs since 2003. The center has helped more than 2,500 children since it opened. More than 1.5 million Egyptians live with physical and mental disabilities, and 45% of them are children.

EIRC is a place where parents arrive with little hope. Their hopes may be as simple as hearing their child say “mama” or “baba.” The more optimistic parents wish their child could walk, talk or go to school – the basic expectations for most parents, but a miracle to the parents of a disabled child.

# MOHAMMED ABDEL-FATAH

He moved his family to Helwan, near Cairo, to find work, but there is no work for him. “I’ve tried to work any type of job—I’ll take anything to help—but sometimes, there just aren’t any opportunities.” He struggles to pay for their food and medical care for his son, Abdul-Rahman.

Islamic Relief began giving the family monthly food rations and assistance with medical expenses. His son Abdul-Rahman now attends EIRC. “Until Islamic Relief, no one was helping us.”



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