



For further information , Please Contact:
Country Office
Islamic Relief Pakistan
Plot # 2, St # 7, G-10/2, Islamabad
Tel: +92 51 2114212-17
Fax: +92 51 2114170
E-mail: info@irp.org.pk
Website: www.islamic-relief.org.pk



Pakistan Snapshot

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Photos & Text: Muhammad Haseeb Khalid

About Islamic Relief

Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) is an international relief and development charity which envisages a caring world where people unite to respond to the suffering of others, empowering them to fulfill their potential. We are an independent Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) founded in the UK in 1984. We provide help where it is needed most and whenever we are best placed to assist. Responding to disasters and emergencies, Islamic Relief promotes sustainable economic and social development by working with local communities - regardless of race, religion or gender. Islamic Relief currently has development programmes in more than 33 countries in Africa, Asia, Middle East and Eastern Europe. Islamic Relief works in six main sectors: sustainable livelihoods, education, health and nutrition, child welfare, water and sanitation, emergency relief and disaster preparedness.

Islamic Relief has a consultative status (special category) with the economic and social council of the United Nations, is a full member of British Overseas NGOs for development (BOND), is a member of the UK platform of the liaison Committee of Development NGOs to the European Union, and is a signatory of the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movements, NGOs in Disaster Relief and People in Aid.

Our Vision

Inspired by our Islamic faith and guided by our values, we envisage a caring world where communities are empowered, social obligations are fulfilled and people respond as one to the suffering of others.

Our Mission

Exemplifying our Islamic values, we will mobilize resources, build partnerships, and develop local capacity, as we work to:

Enable communities to mitigate the effect of disasters, prepare for their occurrence and respond by providing relief, protection and recovery.

Promote integrated development and environmental custodianship with a focus on sustainable livelihoods.

Support the marginalised and vulnerable to voice their needs and address root causes of poverty.

Allocate these resources regardless of race, political affiliation, gender or belief, and without expecting anything in return.

Our Values

We remain guided by the timeless values and teachings provided by the revelations contained within the Qur'an and the prophetic example, most specifically:

Sincerity – Ikhlas

In responding to poverty and suffering our efforts are driven by sincerity to Allah and the need to fulfill our obligations to humanity.

Excellence – Ihsan

Our actions in tackling poverty are marked by excellence in our operations and conduct which are deserving of the people we serve.

Compassion – Rahma

We believe the protection and wellbeing of every life is of paramount importance and we shall join with other humanitarian actors to act as one in responding to suffering brought by disasters, poverty and injustice.

Social Justice – Adl

Our work is founded on enabling people and institutions to fulfill the rights of the poor and vulnerable. We work to empower the dispossessed towards realizing their God-given human potential and developing their capabilities and resources.

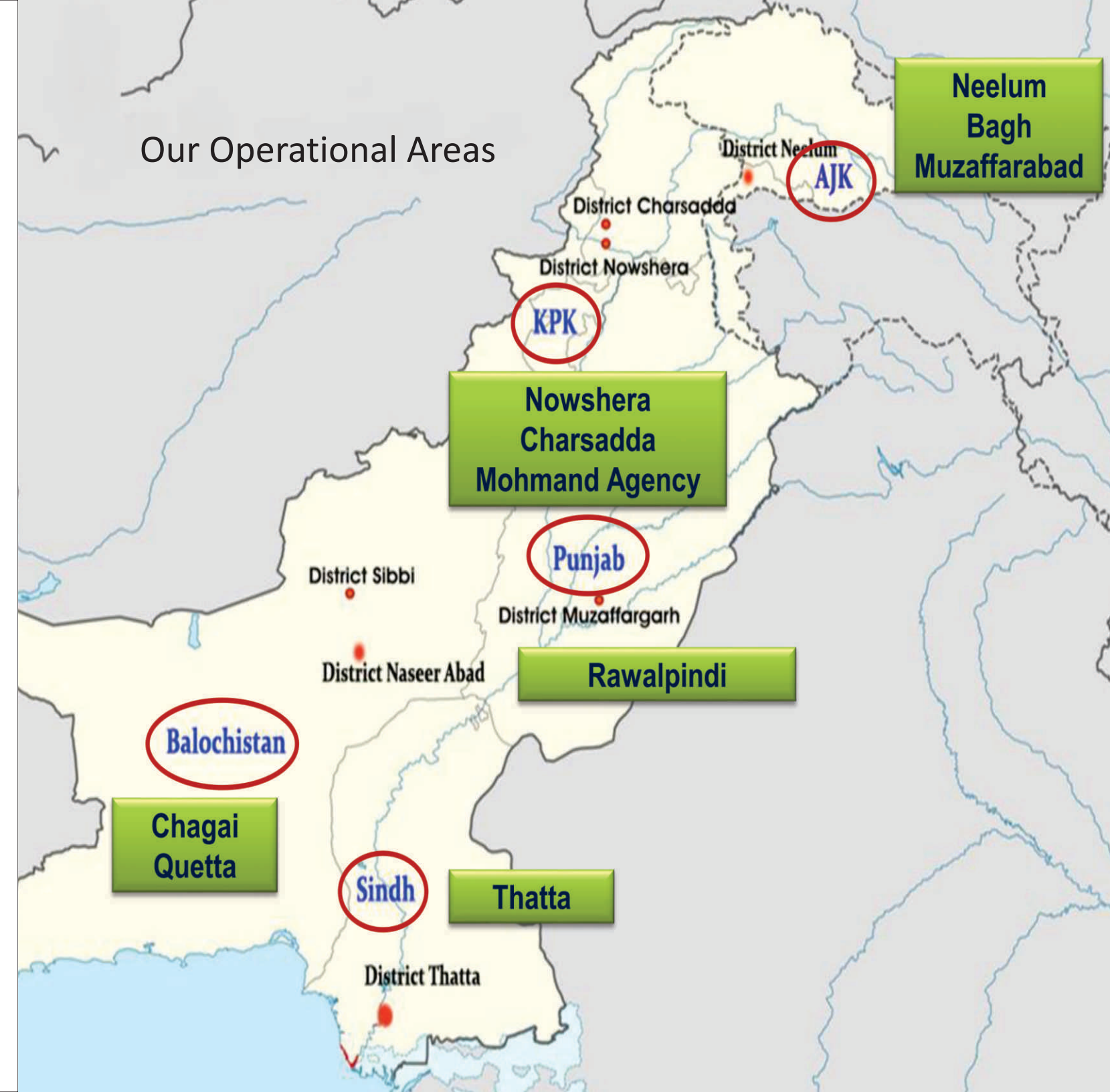
Custodianship – Amana

We uphold our duty of custodianship over the earth, its resources and the trust people place in us as humanitarian and development practitioners to be transparent and accountable.

Our Work in Pakistan

Islamic Relief commenced its operations in Pakistan in 1992, and secured a registration with the Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan in 1994 as a company limited by guarantee. Islamic Relief is also registered with the Ministry of Finance. IR in Pakistan is focusing on the following sectors:

- Sustainable Livelihoods
- Health
- Water & Sanitation
- Islamic Microfinance
- Orphan Sponsorship
- Emergency Response
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Seasonal Programmes





Sustainable Livelihoods

Breaking vicious cycle of poverty

A sustainable livelihood is a way of earning a living that empowers people to become self-sufficient and less reliant on humanitarian aid. Islamic Relief works closely with communities to identify their needs and provide relevant livelihoods with training and tool kits. Our livelihood projects include cash-for-work schemes and developing small businesses.

Currently with support from its donors, Islamic Relief supports farmers both the men and women about effective farming methods. Islamic Relief distributed seeds and fertilizers among the flood-hit farmers and provided training to improve their livelihoods across Pakistan and AJK. Besides imparting vocational training, IRP providing tool kits to women entrepreneur make them self-sufficient.

Farmers get agricultural support and have been able to plough their field which contributes to address food security and contributing to strengthen local economy. Abdul Khaliq, one of IR beneficiaries picture here got sunflower seeds and fertilizers from Islamic Relief in a village Adam Malah, district Thatta.

“All our belongings washed away by constant flooding and we had no other option to left but to depend on aid. Islamic Relief constantly worked in our villages. They provided us with food, shelter, water and now they have imparted vocational training to villagers. Farmers of my village were given seeds and fertilizers and now able to plough their barren lands. An illiterate person like me could not explain what this organisation has done to us to build us back. I can only say thanks.”

Islamic Microfinance

Making people self-sufficient

We are determined to help vulnerable people, making them self-sufficient and contributing to end their dependency on aid. That's why we are running an Islamic Microfinance Programme in Pakistan to empower people in the poorest communities, so they can earn a decent living and make themselves self-sufficient.

Our Islamic Microfinance Programme is designed to give people the skills and support to lift them out of poverty and enter the world of work. Our Microfinance Programme helps to mitigate the chances of debt and helps to create and multiply employment opportunities like Muhammad Younus pictured here.

Islamic Relief Pakistan (IRP) launched its Microfinance Programme (MFP) in 2001. Initially, the programme was aimed at supporting widows and guardians of orphans by providing small loans through Islamic financing methods but since 2002, the focus was broadened to include all poor people. This programme enables the participants to increase their entrepreneurial skills while also meeting their needs for better food, health, education, clothing and shelter. Since inception, the MFP has disbursed more than 7,000 loans in marginalized communities for various purposes including social development.

The programme includes the following key components:

1. Financial support
2. Business start-up grants
3. Vocational training
4. Enterprise development training
5. Exhibitions





Water & Sanitation

Water at doorstep

Water is essential for life. Yet more than 1.1 billion people have no access to clean water. For some countries the problem is scarcity of water, whilst in others it is the quality of water. Unclean water can be fatal as it spreads diseases and illnesses such as cholera and diarrhoea. Poor hygiene practices and access to latrines also increases risk of disease. Over a third of the world's population does not have access to adequate sanitation.

Islamic Relief aims to give people all over the world water for life. We don't just hand out water to those who are thirsty – we dig wells, and build systems to collect and purify rainwater, helping communities to access clean water. Islamic Relief's water and sanitation projects include digging wells, building water supply systems, rainwater-harvesting, constructing latrines and providing basic hygiene training.

For many of the women in Dhir Kot district Bagh in AJK, their lives used to revolve around getting water for their families.

“Due to the distance of our water source, we were facing a lot of problems in fetching water,” said Ajeeba Begum. “Sometimes we spent the whole day waiting for our turn to fetch water. It was a hectic routine and caused a lot of difficulty at times.”

Islamic Relief provided us with a drinking water supply system. The residents can now use the water for drinking and other domestic purposes. The impact has greatly affected our lives. All the households are benefiting from this water supply scheme. Due to availability of clean drinking water, the health and hygiene conditions in the area have improved.

With the extra time on our hands and water at doorstep, many of the women are planning gardens to supplement their families' diet and their income. Girls who used to fetch water from far flung areas are now focusing on their studies, said Ajeeba.

Health & Nutrition

Serving the ailing

Providing access to healthcare and medication is fundamental in the fight against poverty. Islamic Relief's health and nutrition programmes include building, equipping and running healthcare centres, training midwives and traditional birth attendants, providing medication and carrying out health and hygiene training.

Currently we are providing assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in KP with a special focus on the health of mother and child.

Our elimination of blindness project in Balochistan and SEHAT Project in Rawalpindi are helping to serve the ailing.

Islamic Relief Pakistan is involved in:

- Mother and child health care programmes
- Construction and rehabilitation of medical clinics
- Running of BHUs
- Distribution of medical equipment to hospitals
- Food for malnourished children
- Immunisation and health check-ups





Elimination of Avoidable Blindness

Spreading colours of life

Islamic Relief is working in Balochistan to eliminate avoidable blindness. The key objective of prevention of blindness was to reduce the causes of avoidable blindness in child and adults, such as cataract, refractive errors, low vision, trachoma, onchocerciasis, and Vitamin-A deficiency and other causes.

Islamic Relief focused on efforts to address avoidable blindness by preventive and curative interventions. Our team conducts OPD and surgeries in EAB Hospital, eye surgical camps and school & community eye screening camps and so far benefited over 12,000 people in Chagai and neighboring District Washuk.

IR intervention not only benefited the communities of Chagai and neighboring districts, people from adjacent areas of Iran and Afghanistan have been benefited as well. In additions Afghan Refugees living in refugee camps in district Chagai get benefit of EAB Hospital. Being the only hospital of Chagai and adjacent districts it is playing a vital role in Vision 2020: The Right to Sight. Photo shown here is of IR hospital in Chagai where 40-60 patients get eye treatment on daily basis.

Orphan Sponsorship

Boosting self-esteem

Total Sponsored Children: 3,703

Girls: 54% Boys: 46%

Islamic Relief believes that talent and virtue should be nurtured in all children regardless of wealth or privileges at birth. All children have the right to be clothed, fed, protected and educated. Our Child Welfare Programme (CWP) ensures orphaned children and their families have access to food, clothing, education, healthcare and shelter. We also help keep families together by providing support to widows.

The Child Welfare Programme is carrying out One-to-One orphan sponsorship in Pakistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) where the poorest families are targeted and financially supported in meeting their basic necessities of life.

We ensure that our sponsored children have the same opportunities as ordinary children and comprehensive support is provided for future active citizens of society.

Bilal Butt, one of IR sponsored children showcased here reads in Grade 6th. From last four years IR has taken him under its one-to-one sponsorship programme. Bilal wants to be an engineer. "I enjoy my studies at school and play with my friends. I with my mother and elder brother live in a one-room house. One day, I will build a big house for my mother," Bilal vows.





Ramadan Programme

Sharing the Barakah

The Ramadan Programme is a seasonal project of Islamic Relief which addresses food insecurity and eases the economic burdens of the poor during the holy month.

Our Ramadan foods packs are designed, as per the international standards for nutrition, to meet the needs of a family of seven or eight members for the whole month of Ramadan.

Before distributing these food packs, Islamic Relief Pakistan in collaboration with village committees, selects families who are the most vulnerable and in need including female-headed households, people with disabilities and families consisting of orphans.

During the festive month, IRP ensures that its elected families receive five or more basic items in line with customs, to make sure the food was suitable, enjoyable and to their liking.

The lady seen in the photo cooks Iftar food which she received from Islamic Relief in Muzaffarabad, AJK.

Qurbani Programme

Exemplifying the spirit of Sacrifice

Islamic Relief's Qurbani Programme started in 1986 and over the years has been increasing in size, reaching more and more people every year. In recognition of the belief, humility and devotion shown to Allah by His Prophet Ibrahim (AS), Islamic Relief follows the spirit of Qurbani and rejoices each year with the marginalized communities by distributing sacrificial meat.

Each meat packet on an average contains 5kg of meat which is expected to last a family of four up to a week. Islamic Relief's Qurbani meat packs allow some families to eat meat after a whole year and allow them to celebrate this important occasion along with millions of other Muslims.

Islamic Relief's Qurbani parcels are distributed to the most vulnerable people in the communities where we work including orphans, widows, elderly, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees. These people live below the poverty line and many suffer from regular food shortages. For the majority of these people, meat is not part of their regular diet.

The Qurbani meat allows some families to eat meat after a whole year. When families receive Qurbani meat, it fosters a real sense of hope and joy for them and allows them to celebrate this important occasion along with millions of other Muslims.

In this photo, IR right holders make their way after receiving sacrificial meat in a flood-hit district Jaffarabad, Balochistan.





Emergency Response Programme

Answering the call...

Natural disasters and conflicts claim millions of lives each year. Survivors are often forced out of their homes, resettling elsewhere within the country or fleeing across borders to begin life as a refugee.

Islamic Relief's emergency teams are ready to respond to humanitarian disasters in the shortest possible time. Our priority is to provide as many people as possible with the basic necessities of food, water, shelter and medical treatment.

After the emergency phase, IR assesses possibilities of rehabilitation and long-term development. Our emergency preparedness programmes help communities to survive conflicts and natural disasters. In Pakistan we have responded to all major disasters with an integrated approach and needs of disaster affected populations are addressed by timely and appropriate humanitarian response.

The photo showcased here is of tent village established in district Thatta in 2011 after the devastating floods which hit southern parts of Pakistan. Over 3500 families received humanitarian support from IR in this camp.

DRR and Preparedness

Synergizing the Resilience

Islamic Relief in all its interventions ensuring to increase knowledge and awareness about disasters at community level, investing on early warning systems, building emergency response teams in the field, -and disseminating programme resources and lessons learned from the disasters recovery. From last three years, IRP worked on building the resilience of the communities by engaging children, women, men and old to spread knowledge about the importance of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and create awareness among communities for reducing risks to disasters.

IRP investment on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) assist and strengthen the communities to continue their efforts in making a progress to build them better and contribute to strengthen local economy. Our priority is to reduce the risks and effects of disasters, restore livelihood so our partner communities become more resilient, well prepared to avoid any losses at the cost of development they have made.

Currently Islamic Relief is implementing its DRR projects in all its working areas. The photo shown here is of Jatti village, Thatta district where IR has built shelters at raised platforms and helped communities to synergize their resilience.





Eco-friendly Solution

Tapping the natural resource

Our eco-friendly solutions and alternative energy resources are tapped positively which are contributing to better environment and climate. Barren lands are coming under cultivation, bringing prosperity and ultimately contributing to better climate.

Islamic Relief Pakistan has taken advantage of a concept to light up the lives of poor communities with no electricity, by installing solar panels. Our eco-friendly projects aim to benefit less privileged communities in Balochistan and Sindh.

For the sustainability and reliability of the projects, our teams conduct training sessions to the communities about maintaining and taking care of the solar panels.

The wind mill shown here was installed in 2006 in district Chagai, Balochistan. IR projects are not fulfilling the water needs of the villagers but helping them to cultivate their barren lands.

Alternative Energy Sources

Lighting Up Lives

These days Pakistan is facing energy crises and a large number of people still remain without electricity.

Islamic Relief has taken advantage of a concept to light up the lives of poor communities with no electricity, by installing solar panels. Our solar panels have benefited over 700 households in Sindh and Balochistan. Designed and developed by teams of professionals in collaboration with an engineering company, the solar panel is based on the principles of appropriate technologies – a concept that provides simple and easily replicable technologies that address basic needs in developing communities.

For the sustainability and reliability of the project, IR teams conducted various training sessions to the communities about maintaining and taking care of the solar panels. In the village of Jogi Mallah, district Thatta-Sindh, Ali Akbar is the only school-going child in his village to study under light generated from solar panels. Photo published here is of village Jogi Mallah, Thatta district where communities get solar systems and experience light at night time.





Disaster-resistant Shelters and Construction

Rebuilding Lives

Shelter is the key to a person's sense of security, dignity and ability to aspire to a better future. People who are displaced by conflict or disaster need shelter to survive and a home to rebuild their lives.

Islamic Relief provides both the transitional and disaster-resistant shelters to hundreds of desperate people in crisis situations. In the longer-term we work together with our partner communities to build permanent housing in accordance with the individual needs and preferences of the people we are helping.

After the devastating floods in 2010, Islamic Relief had provided over 8,000 permanent shelters in KP, Punjab, Balochistan and shelters at raised platform in Sindh.

The photo is of district Muzaffargarh, Punjab where IR had implemented its programmes after 2010 floods with an integrated rehabilitation approach. IR worked on community physical infrastructure which helped bring back normalcy.