



ISLAMIC RELIEF USA



BALTIMORE, MD: MEMORIAL DAY
Care package distribution

INTERFAITH WORK

Islamic Relief USA provides relief and development in a dignified manner regardless of gender, race, or religion, and works to empower individuals in their communities and give them a voice in the world.

This means that IRUSA works hard to ensure partnerships in the local community where aid is delivered. One goal is to connect humanitarians among the Muslim community to other groups who either want to help in humanitarian efforts, or who need aid themselves.

Interfaith work is important to promote peaceful existence between people—it's vital in creating a better world for everyone.

SAMPLE INTERFAITH EFFORT: IRAQ

Emergency Relief in Iraq: Islamic Relief USA donors are providing food and hygiene kits to displaced people in and around Erbil and Baghdad.

Interfaith Work: In Iraq, all of Islamic Relief key staff and management are Iraqi. Furthermore, the office recruits and hires staff from communities where the work is implemented—key Shia staff in Shia areas, and key Christian staff in Christian areas. This has helped Islamic Relief attain widespread coverage and community buy-in, and has enabled access to areas that are difficult to enter. For example, in Kirkuk, Islamic Relief was the first organization providing aid on the ground during this crisis on behalf of the UNHCR.

'IT SHOWS THAT SOME MUSLIMS CARE'

ISLAMIC RELIEF WORKER SERVES FELLOW DISPLACED CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ

Catherine and her family left their home in Qaraqosh, Iraq, when their Christian faith put them in too much danger amid the fighting. She moved to Erbil, where she works at the Islamic Relief office. Catherine speaks Arabic, English and Syriac Aramaic and understands Kurdish, and she has been instrumental in facilitating Islamic Relief's outreach to the displaced Christian community in Erbil. Throughout summer 2015, Islamic Relief USA is supporting 900 families in the

Erbil region with monthly packages of food and basic home necessities like soaps, detergent, toothpaste and feminine hygiene items. At least 200 of these families are part of the persecuted Iraqi Christian community.

At the first distribution in May at the Syriac Catholic Church, Catherine registered family after family. By the end of the day, 200 families had received their food and hygiene items.

Afterward, Catherine—normally cheerful—was quiet.

"Today I saw many old faces," she said. "My fourth grade teacher, a childhood friend, the shopkeeper I used to buy ice cream from. I can't believe how many of us have lost everything."

"I hope Islamic Relief USA understands how important their attention is to us right now, how it shows that some Muslims care ... Please don't forget us."





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MORE INTERFAITH PROJECTS

Islamic Relief USA assists anyone in need, regardless of ethnicity or faith. The following projects highlight locations where Islamic Relief is working with interfaith partners or assisting people of diverse faiths.

Rajhu in Sindhupalchowk Nepal



Central African Republic

Islamic Relief USA worked with Catholic Relief Services to assist people displaced by conflict. Donors gave displaced families household items like sleeping mats, tarps and kitchen sets, and provided comprehensive psychosocial support for displaced children.

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, donors are helping widows start businesses, training youth in vocational skills, and sensitizing the community on child protection concerns and HIV/AIDS awareness. Another project is providing comprehensive basic services by drilling wells, improving health care, constructing a school and training teachers.

Jordan

Islamic Relief USA worked with Lutheran World Foundation to promote peace building and social cohesion between Syrian refugees and their Jordanian hosts. Lutheran World Foundation conducted six workshops.

Kenya

Donors are improving community resilience and food security by helping farmers and small-business owners to strengthen and improve their enterprises, and training community groups in disaster risk reduction.

Nepal

Islamic Relief USA donors provided food and tents to survivors of the April 2015 earthquake. A local organization in Nepal called Batas Foundation worked with Islamic Relief to identify community members in greatest need and to distribute the food and tents.

Palestine

Islamic Relief USA is working with Catholic Relief Services to provide transitional shelters for 64 families in Gaza.

Philippines

Islamic Relief USA initially provided tents for 2,000 families after the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan. Subsequent projects helped families recover their livelihoods by hiring community members to repair facilities; providing farmers with seeds, tools and training; and offering vocational training and support in other business enterprises.

South Africa

Islamic Relief USA is constructing an oncology ward in the new Nelson Mandela children's hospital and improving access to education. The education project is training teachers and building, renovating and furnishing classrooms and other school facilities.

South Sudan

Donors are helping families regain stability by providing farmers with seeds, equipment and training; building and repairing water sources; and equipping health care centers to care for patients in their community.

United States

Islamic Relief USA implements a wide range of projects in the United States both assisting and partnering with people of all faiths and backgrounds. Partners range from the American Red Cross to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Here are just a few of the projects Islamic Relief USA has implemented and supported in the United States since 2014 to serve communities across the country:

- **Financial education classes**
- **Domestic violence prevention training**
- **Summer meals for low-income children**
- **Shelter for abused women**
- **Health clinics**
- **Food pantries**
- **Distribution of Thanksgiving turkeys**