



# Hidaya Foundation

www.hidaya.org

## Newsletter

Fall 2006

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**Get Hidaya  
(Guidance) from  
the Creator and  
give Haddiya (Gift)  
to His Creation**



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A US based 501(C)3  
Non-Profit Organization with  
Tax ID # 77-0502583

## Disaster Relief Updates

### Indonesia Tsunami & Earthquake, 2006

This past summer a tsunami and an earthquake struck Indonesia. For the tsunami disaster, Hidaya Foundation



distributed 500 blankets and 1,000 tents. For earthquake relief, Hidaya Foundation helped over 1,000 injured at hospitals and over 3,000 displaced families by providing tents.

### Pakistan Earthquake, 2005

Hidaya Foundation continues to support Pakistan earthquake victims. In July 2006, Hidaya Foundation moved its office and warehouses to Abbottabad from Islamabad to be close to people in need and reduce overhead. This Ramadan, Hidaya Foundation will be



distributing dry rations to needy families in addition to ongoing distribution of other supplies such as tents, blankets, jackets, sleeping bags, etc. to meet the challenges of winter. A large number of people this year will still be without homes and hence a tremendous amount of work is still required to support such people. ◆

## Education for the Next Generation

*Sponsor A Student*

During 2006, Hidaya Foundation supported over 1,500 students in the form of monthly stipends and/or fees. In 2007, Hidaya Foundation has planned to expand the project and support, Insha'Allah, a minimum of 5,000 children for their educational needs. ◆

## No Orphan without Education

Hidaya Foundation is putting extra effort to identify orphans and support them for not only their survival, but to make sure such children have opportunity to acquire education. ◆

## Feed the Hungry

*One Million Meals Project*

Feed the world's poorest of the poor by providing them with food rations. Hidaya Foundation has been running this project for the last four years. Each meal costs only 25 cents. ◆

## Disaster Preparedness Team

*Disaster could strike at any moment!*

Since Dec. 2004 Tsunami, the world has seen major disasters taking place again and again worldwide. Should a disaster strike where we live:

- How would we, and our families survive in the difficult circumstances?
- Family and neighbors may be critically injured. Do we know how we will help them?
- There may not be any running water, electricity or gas for several days. How will we find water, cook food and stay warm?

- There might not be enough food for your family. Where will you find food when everyone else is in a similar situation?
- Your home may be on fire. What would you do to stop it?
- Where will you go for the call of nature if you live in crowded cities?

To meet this challenge, in 2005, Hidaya Foundation started a project to help train communities under its "Disaster Preparedness Team" project. Hidaya Foundation's team members have already completed their training; we are now announcing the opportunity for others to sign-up for training in Disaster Preparedness. Over time, Hidaya Foundation plans to offer this training at the national level and eventually in other countries around the world.

To sign-up in disaster preparedness training and information on this project or to make your own 72-hour emergency preparedness kit please visit [www.hidaya.org](http://www.hidaya.org).

## How we Distribute Zakat

**W**idows, orphans, elderly and the poorest of the poor benefit in the form of dry ration, clothing, and other basic human needs.

Hidaya Foundation collects and distributes Zakat donations per strict Shariah guidelines (according to Chapter 9: Verse 60 in the Holy Quran), and as instructed by donors. Zakat funds are distributed directly by Hidaya Foundation or transferred to sister and reliable partner organizations in South Asia and West Africa to support orphans, widows, poor elderly, and families in extreme poverty and for marriage support for poor girls. Zakat

funds are also used to support Zakat-deserving students for their educational needs and less fortunate ones for their health care needs. ♦

## Container Shipments

*Donate new & used items to help the poor*

**T**o support earthquake victims in Pakistan, Hidaya Foundation shipped 36 forty-foot ocean freight containers [approx. 540 tons of supplies] during 2005. Most of the containers contained winter items, including tents, jackets, sleeping bags, etc. This year, Hidaya Foundation has already sent 10 forty-foot containers [approx. 150 tons of supplies].



During September and October 2006, Hidaya Foundation intends to ship three more containers. If you would like to donate, please visit [www.hidaya.org](http://www.hidaya.org) for more information. Donations are accepted every Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 – 4:00 pm at the donation collection center in Milpitas, CA. If you reside out of the San Francisco Bay Area, you can mail your donations to Hidaya Foundation, 1765 Scott Blvd., Suite # 115, Santa Clara, CA 95056. If you would like to ship a container from your community please contact us. ♦

## The Story of Hidaya Foundation

*by Abiya Ahmed*

**I**n today's modern society, where people are trapped in a world of commercialism and consumerism, an organization that exists purely to serve humanity comes across as a breath of fresh air. Since 1999, Hidaya Foundation has been providing that air through numerous charitable projects conducted in economically depressed areas of Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, several countries in West Africa and North America.

Hidaya Foundation was founded by Waseem Baloch in Santa Clara, California. An engineer by profession, Baloch started writing the bylaws of the organization in 1990, and after certain circumstantial delays, registered it in the US and Pakistan in 1999. However, he had conceived of such an idea as early as 1972, when, as a teenager riding with his uncle on the streets of Karachi, he saw several people driven out of their homes due to monsoon rains.

"All the huts and shanty towns were destroyed, and I was in the car looking at other children sitting on the street with a few pots and pans, and they had lost everything," he recalled, "and for several miles, I rode with my uncle and witnessed the destruction. It impacted me so much that I wasn't able to sleep that night. I remember I found myself crying, and making dua to Allah (SWT) to use me to serve His creation."

### The Programs

According to Baloch, Hidaya Foundation's priority is education, especially women's education. "But we realized that when people don't even have one proper meal, how can they worry about education? Hence we spend time toward social welfare and health care as well."

Consequently, Hidaya Foundation's programs are of three types: educational and vocational, social welfare and disaster relief, and health care. Sub-projects within each category include sponsoring students and schools in deprived regions, distributing Zakat to widows, orphans and elderly, supporting marriages of destitute girls, the One Million Meals project, being

## Donor Safety

Hidaya Foundation has taken effective steps to keep its donors and volunteers safe from today's unpredictable environment.

- **Controlled Execution:** Hidaya Foundation executes most of its projects by utilizing its own volunteers and employees .
- **Anti-Terrorism Database:** if a need arises to work with a partner organization, that organization and its board of directors are qualified by checking against the anti-terrorism databases maintained by the United Nations, US Dept. of Treasury and European Union.
- **US Dept. of Treasury Anti-Terrorist Financing Guidelines:** Hidaya Foundation follows these guidelines while executing projects in addition to the laws of the country of project.

on location as soon as disaster strikes, and providing medical support for underprivileged patients and hospitals. Additionally, Hidaya Foundation also carries out a Container Shipment Project, which involves collecting books, computers, medical supplies, clothes, shoes, toys, and other household items to ship to impoverished areas. "In the 11 weeks after the earthquake in Pakistan, Hidaya Foundation sent 24 forty-foot containers full of blankets, winter clothing and tents to Pakistan, collected from throughout the USA," Baloch said.

Does he think the community is doing enough to serve charitable causes? Without a moment's hesitation, Baloch replied, "When Muslims in the past paid their Zakat, there were no poor left. Looking at the worldwide situation now, I feel that all Muslims are not paying their Zakat. So no I don't think the community is doing enough."

He believes awareness plays a key role in this regard, noting that instead of just playing on people's emotions, Hidaya Foundation attempts to educate people through its flyers (how to calculate Zakat, why one should pay Zakat and Sadaqah, etc.). Before Ramadan, Hidaya Foundation will make available on its website a free comprehensive booklet on calculating Zakat, compiled from several sources, which will address modern financial situations that a Muslim faces (401K plans, stocks, stock options, etc.) when calculating Zakat.

## The Future

The organization has come a long way since Baloch started working on it from a desk at his home in 1997. The year Hidaya Foundation completed its registration, it raised \$111,626. Baloch noted that in 2005, "Hidaya Foundation crossed \$4.4 million, so Allah has placed tremendous barakah [blessings] in our work and helped us bring the organization to this level in such a short period of time."

In late 2002, Baloch gave up his engineering profession to work full-time for Hidaya Foundation himself. Very matter-of-factly he noted, "I thought if I

could give my energy and knowledge to corporate America, why not to Hidaya and hence to those who are more deserving of it?" As a result, funds increased tenfold.

According to Hidaya Foundation's Treasurer Mohamed Shafik, who is also on the Board of Directors, "Waseem Baloch has been able to tap resources around him and get a small but a right set of people, with whom he has been able to pull off such good work." He added that the key is to be able "align resources with time and activities to make things click."

Aamir Malik, who handles IT and advertisements for Hidaya Foundation, has been volunteering for the past five years and has witnessed its growth. He attributes this to a number of factors. "Donations have increased," he said, "because Hidaya Foundation has been able to make an impact as it is quick to respond to calamities. Hidaya Foundation always backs up its work by updating the public about what its doing," he said. All of this, according to him, elicits donor confidence and assurance, which ultimately translates into a rise in donations.

What does he foresee for the future? "I see a lot of potential in the judicious growth of the organization," Malik said, adding that Hidaya Foundation is also maintaining an international presence by hiring employees overseas, which he thinks will play a vital role in its future. Shafik concurred, noting that he hopes to see Hidaya Foundation "strengthen its infrastructure, and replicate the operating processes in different parts of the world."

It is exactly in this direction that Hidaya Foundation is progressing. Currently Baloch and his team are documenting all standard operating procedures its employees worldwide. Hidaya Foundation is also developing a Disaster Preparedness Team whereby people will be trained for effective responses in case of a disaster.

**"... if I could give my energy and knowledge to corporate America, why not to Hidaya and hence to those who are more deserving of it?"**

## Your Funds at Work! Please Donate Generously

Food Distribution (dry rations), Pakistan



School Support Project, Pakistan



Zakat Distribution, Cameroon



Self-employment Project, Bangladesh



Zakat Distribution (dry rations), India



Indonesia Earthquake Relief



