Hidaya Foundation
www.hidaya.org

Newsletter
Spring 2010

From Unemployment to Self Employment the Prophet's Way (pbuh)

A man from the Ansar came to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and begged from him. The Prophet asked, "Have you nothing in your house?" He replied, "Yes, a piece of cloth, a part of which we wear and a part of which we spread (on the ground), and a wooden bowl from which we drink water." The Prophet said, "Bring them to me." He then brought these articles to the Prophet who took them in his hands and asked, "Who will buy these?" A man said, "I shall offer to buy them for one dirham." The Prophet said twice or thrice, "Who will offer more than one dirham?" Another man said, "I shall buy them," and bought them for two dirhams. The man gave the two dirhams to the Prophet who took them and gave them to the owner Ansari and said, "Buy food with one dirham for your family, and buy an axe with the second dirham, and bring it to me." The Ansari brought the axe to the Prophet, who fixed a handle on it with his own hands and said, "Go, gather firewood and sell it, and do not let me see you for a fortnight." The man went away, and gathered firewood and sold it. When he had earned ten dirhams, he came to the Prophet and told him that he had bought a garment with some of them and food with his other earnings. **(Abu Dawud, Hadith #1637)**

Self employment projects can be permanent solutions and contribute to the confidence, integrity and dignity of those who benefit from these projects. Just a few examples of Hidaya's Self-Employment projects and the costs to operate them include:

Poultry Farming - Only $50 to start-up a small poultry farm

Goat Farming - It takes $200 for a pair of goats for a family to get started

Sewing Machines - It costs $75 to provide an individual with a sewing machine

Small Business - Only $200 can jump start a push-cart or street vending business, it costs approximately $200 - $500 to set up a retail shop depending on type of the business ◆

Disaster Relief in Padang, Indonesia

On September 30, 2009 an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale struck the western coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra, near the district of Padang Pariaman, the capital of West Sumatra. A second earthquake with 6.8 scale intensity followed few days later.

Shortly after these devastating earthquakes, Hidaya Foundation had team members on the ground in Padang, monitoring the situation. In late November, Qurbani meat was distributed in the small village of Durian Daun with a population of 300 families, which was among the worst hit places. Over the next few months, Hidaya team assessed the damage. Based on extensive surveys, meetings with the impacted families and advice from the village leaders, Hidaya's team made specific recommendations to HQ on how to best utilize the funds from our donors. By January 2010, Hidaya's team completed its relief efforts in Padang by providing financial support to over 311 families to rebuild their homes.

The day of distribution looked like Eid Festivities in Durian Daun village, as the smiling faces of the men, women, children and elderly alike showed their relief and gratitude. The villagers were so happy to be getting aid from Muslim brothers and sisters thousands of miles across the ocean, whom they had never even seen or met, and were making du'a for those who remembered them in their time of difficulty. May Allah (God) reward all who helped to donate for this project, and accept and bless the efforts. ◆

Abu Hurairah (Radhi Allahu Anhu - May Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam - Peace Be Upon Him) said, "*when, booty will be taken as a private property, property given in trust is treated as a gain, Zakat (obligatory charity) is considered as a burden, learning will be acquired other than for religion, a man shall obey his wife and disobey his mother, he shall draw his friend near and drive his father far off, voices shall be loud in the masaajid, the sinner among a people shall become their leader, the leader among a people shall become the vilest of them, a man shall be honored out of fear of his mischief, singing girls and musical instruments shall appear, wine will be drunk, and the latter generations of this people will curse their former ones - Wait at that time for a violent windstorm, an earthquake, and sinking down of earth, and deformity/mutilation of men, and falling/raining of stones and objects from the sky, and several signs that will follow like a string of gems whose string has been cut of and so they fall one after an other*". (**At-Tirmidhi, Hadith #5450**)

Software Engineering

With Hidaya Foundation's headquarters in the Silicon Valley and most of its Board of Directors, Volunteers and Donor Base coming from a technological background, it was logical for Hidaya Foundation to establish the Software Engineering Skills and Development initiative under its Information Technology Training Project. The goal of this pilot project is to train and enable underprivileged & unemployed software engineering graduates so they can be gainfully employed and are able to support their families.

Since its inception in January 2009, over 50 software engineers have already received training from the Hidaya Institute of Science & Technology (HIST), operated at Hidaya's Jamshoro / Hyderabad location. Some of the graduates from HIST are offered additional training at Hidaya Software House (HSH) as interns. As an added service, Hidaya is also exploring ways to assist these graduates in finding jobs in the IT industry in Pakistan. In 2010 at least 75 additional software engineers are expected to benefit from this project, insha'Allah. Hidaya aims to expand this project to a world-wide scale. The concept of HIST is considered as a laboratory for future growth in this direction insha'Allah.

Support a School

To promote literacy in rural and economically depressed areas of under-developed countries, Hidaya Foundation operates its own schools as well as financially supports other schools.

Examples of activities to support schools include: constructing additional classroom facilities; providing classroom furniture; establishing libraries; providing salaries for teachers and staff; donating computers for IT training; installing drinking water systems; providing lights and fans for classrooms; sponsoring extracurricular activities such as sports, debates, and tree plantations; paying for utilities; and repairing vehicles used to transport handicapped children to school. ◆

Hidaya is currently operating 23 schools

	Boys	Girls
Grade KG	64	39
Grade One	800	366
Grade Two	110	42
Grade Three	21	8
Grade Four	17	6
Grade Five	8	1
Total	**1020**	**462**

Sponsor a Student

In addition to the Support a School Project, Hidaya also offers financial or in-kind support to students facing financial hardship under its Sponsor a Student Project.

Hidaya provides assistance in two forms:

• **Partial Assistance** which may include admission fees, text books, tuition fees, exam fees, hostel fees, uniforms, backpacks, school supplies and stationery items.

1,244 students are currently being supported

• **Full financial support** that usually includes the above mentioned items plus a monthly stipend which may ranging between $5 to $50 in local currency. This amount varies based on the school location, financial health of the student's family and local conditions. ◆
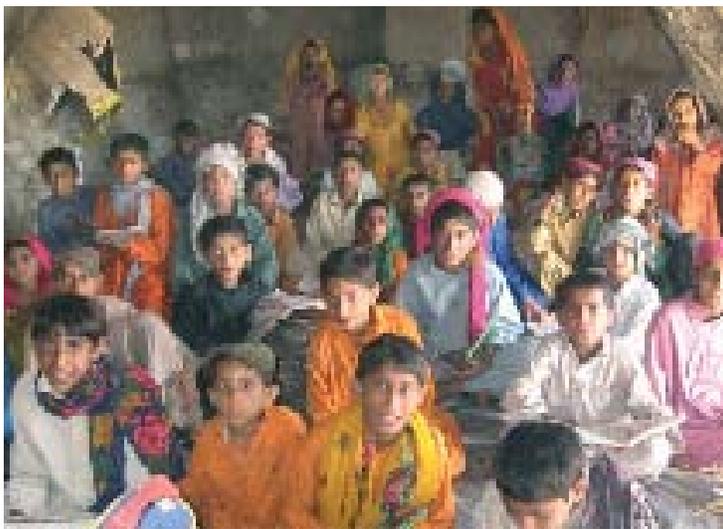
Skills & Development

At the HIST and HSH training centers, interns are taught theories and work on development projects using Microsoft and Open Source technologies.

In Microsoft, graduates learn .NET framework including core C#.NET, ASP.NET 3.5/4.0, Basic & Advanced ASP.NET, ASP. Net Security, IIS Configuration & Hosting, Web Services, MySQL Server 2005, Rich Internet Applications Development including AJAX, LINQ, Silver Light, XML.

In Open Source technology, interns learn PHP, MySQL, Linux, CMS (Joomla). CSS, Java Script, HTML and AJAX.

Besides learning the theoretical concepts of these cutting edge technologies, interns acquire necessary hands-on skills by working on Hidaya's internal IT projects. Examples of these projects include paperless system, consultancy to external customers, and delivering training classes to underprivileged students in local schools and colleges to increase their interest in technology. Additionally, interns attend classes for career development in which socio-economical issues and world-wide software engineering job markets are discussed, resume and cover letter writing skills are developed, interviewing tips and techniques are given, and English language competency as well as project management skills are improved. ◆

One Million Trees

Planting trees is a Sadaqah Jariah, or perpetual charity. *The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said, "If any Muslim plants any plant and a human being or an animal eats of it, he will be rewarded as if he had given that much in charity."* (**Sahih Bukhari, Vol. 8, Hadith #41**)

Hidaya Foundation's "One Million Trees" Project addresses some of the man-made environmental challenges we are facing world-wide. Since the project's initiation in 2008, Hidaya has planted over 113,000 trees. The goal of this project is to plant and grow one million trees in ten years, insha'Allah. Through this effort, Hidaya intends to educate youth on the impact of trees on the environment by giving information on how to grow, maintain, and benefit from trees. On average, it costs just $1 per tree. ◈

Qurbani 2009 Report

In November 2009, Hidaya Foundation arranged a total of 3,196 Qurbani/Udhiyah shares (2,135 ox/buffalo & 761 goat/sheep) on behalf of our donors. Almost 30,000 families (180,000 individuals) benefited from this project in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Guinea, Ghana, Benin, Togo, and USA. Among the recipients of this meat are some of the poorest people on the planet. For many of them, this was their only helping of meat for the entire year. ◈

Sadaqah

The Prophet (pbuh) said, "Give the Sadaqah without delay for it stands in the way of calamity." (Tirmidhi #1887)

Year round, Hidaya arranges distribution of sadaqah in the form of cash, as well as animal meat. It costs $100 for a goat/sheep or $350 for an ox/buffalo. Sacrifice and distribution of meat among the poor is usually completed within 72 hours of the time of donation. Sadaqah donations can be made by check or card on our website at: www.hidaya.org/social-welfare/charity ◈

Container Shipment Project

In 2009, Hidaya Foundation shipped 16 (40 ft.) containers filled with relief supplies for the poor and needy in Pakistan. Contents include new and used clothing, house hold items, children's toys, school supplies, books, medical equipment and supplies, and more. ◈

Independent Auditor's Report for Fiscal Year 2009

With the blessings of Allah (SWT), on February 23, 2010 Hidaya Foundation successfully completed its 2009 financial audit. A copy of the audited financial statements is available for review at: www.hidaya.org/financials ◈

Board of Directors

Adeel Ahmed (Dallas, TX)
Mazhar Uddin (Dayton, NJ)
Irfan Baloch (Geneva, Switzerland)
Mohamed S. Shamsuddin (Santa Clara, CA)
Waseem Baloch (Santa Clara, CA)

Donation Form

Hidaya Foundation is a non-profit 501(C)(3) charitable organization with US Tax ID # 77-0502583.

Name _____
Email _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Self Employment
($50 Poultry, $200 Goats, $75 Sewing Machine, $200 Small Business)
Disaster Relief
Support a School
Sponsor a Student
Information Technology Training
One Million Trees ($1 per tree)
Sadaqah / Charity ($100 goat/sheep; $350 ox/buffalo)
Container Shipment Project
Zakat / Obligatory Charity
No Orphan Without Education ($30 - $50/Month)
Other : _____

$ _____
$ _____
$ _____
$ _____
$ _____
$ _____
$ _____
$ _____
$ _____
$ _____
$ _____

Total $ _____

☐ VISA   ☐ MasterCard   ☐ American Express   ☐ Discover

Name on the card: _____
Card No: _____
Expiry Date: (mm/yy) _____