

408.244.3282 | 866.2HIDAYA | mail@hidaya.org | www.hidaya.org



## **Newsletter**

Ramadan 1441

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#### Hidaya Foundation 1765 Scott Blvd, Suite # 115 Santa Clara, CA 95050

Mail checks payable to Hidaya Foundation at: PO Box 5481, Santa Clara, CA 95056

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### **Putting Things in Perspective: Reflections in Trying Times**

We are witnessing a historic time, as the Coronavirus Crisis affects the whole world. In these trying times, there is much for us to reflect on. Following are some verses of the Qur'an and sayings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) to ponder upon and help us through in shaa Allah.

#### **Global Transgressions are Worrying**

Have they not seen how many generations We destroyed before them which We had established upon the earth as We have not established you? And We sent [rain from] the sky upon them in showers and made rivers flow beneath them; then We destroyed them for their sins and brought forth after them a generation of others. [Al-Qur'an 6:6]

And if only the people of the cities had believed and feared Allah, We would have opened upon them blessings from the heaven and the earth; but they denied [the messengers], so We seized them for what they were earning." [Al-Qur'an 7:96]

#### **Look Inward**

Whatever affliction befalls you, it is because of what your hands have earned, and yet He overlooks many (of the wrongs you do). [Al-Qur'an 42:30]

That is because Allah would not change a favor which He had bestowed upon a people until they change what is within themselves. And indeed, Allah is Hearing and Knowing. [Al-Qur'an 8:53]

#### We Will Be Tested

And certainly, We shall test you with something of fear, hunger, loss of wealth, lives and fruits, but give glad tidings to As-Sabirin (the patient ones, etc.). [Al-Qur'an 2:155]

#### Seek Forgiveness from Allah

But Allah would not punish them while you, [O Muhammad], are among them, and Allah would not punish them while they seek forgiveness. [Al-Qur'an 8:33]

And said, 'Ask forgiveness of your Lord. Indeed, He is ever a Perpetual Forgiver. He will send [rain from] the sky upon you in [continuing] showers. And give you increase in wealth and children and provide for you gardens and provide for you rivers. [Al-Our'an 71:10-12]

#### **Duaa (Prayer) For Protection**

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, "He who recites three times every morning and evening: 'Bismillahil-ladhi la yadurru ma'as-mihi shai'un fil-ardi wa la fis-sama'i, wa Huwas-Sami'ul-'Alim' (In the Name of Allah with Whose Name there is protection against every kind of harm in the earth or in the heaven, and He is the All-Hearing and All-Knowing), nothing will harm him." (Sunan Abi Dawud #5088)

#### **Benefits of Giving Sadaqah (Charity)**

Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said the following about giving sadaqah:

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

"Sadaqah extinguishes sin as water extinguishes fire." (Tirmidhi #2541)

"Sadaqah appeases the Lord's anger and averts an evil death." (Tirmidhi #1909)

"The believer's shade on the Day of Resurrection will be his Sadaqah." (Tirmidhi #1925)

# **Worldwide Relief Efforts in Ramadan Help Us Provide One Million Meals This Ramadan**



Pakistar





Indonesia

Turkey





Bangladesh

Guiriea

As supply chains have been affected world wide by the Coronavirus Crisis, the poor are suffering everywhere. Hidaya aims to provide over one million meals throughout 22 countries with food distribtuion efforts. Typically, food packages consist of wheat or rice, lentils or chickpeas, cooking oil, vegetables, soap and more, and vary from region to region. *International food package can costs from \$30-\$50*, while packages in USA are around *\$75*. Here is a breakdown of current efforts world-wide:

**Pakistan:** Hidaya has committed to support over 50,000 families with food distribution. Additionally, women in our sewing centers are stitching masks which will be provided to hospitals, police, and the masses. Also, for the many businesses and shops that are affected due to shut-down of infrastructure, Hidaya will be providing loans to keep businesses going.

**Bangladesh:** Food distribution is being provided to nearly 3,000 families.

**Sri Lanka:** Food distribution is being provided to over 3,000 families.

**Turkey:** Food distribution is being provided to 200 refugee families.

**Indonesia:** Hidaya is supporting hospitals and front-line workers in Lampung Province with food distribution as well as over 5,000 pieces of personal protection equipment for doctors, nurses and medical staffs so they may safely treat patients.

**Myanmar (Burma):** Food distribution is being provided to 300 families

West Africa: Hidaya is providing food distribution for nearly 4,000 families in Cameroon, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Togo, Senegal, Niger, Nigeria, Benin, Ivory Coast, and Burkina Faso.

**East Africa:** Hidaya is providing food items to be distributed to over 16,000 families in **Somalia**, **Somaliland**, **Ethiopia**, and **Djibouti**.

**USA:** In the San Francisco Bay Area, where Hidaya is headquartered, we are providing Ramadan food packages to over 100 families in need, and have distributed nearly 2,000 N95 masks to hospitals. We have also sponsored efforts of volunteers in Shasta County who are providing food and advocacy for hundreds of at risk working class families due to mass lay offs. •

## **Purchase of Combined Rice Mills, Weighing and Packing Machines**

Every year Hidaya buys thousands of metric tons of paddy worth hundreds of thousands of dollars in Pakistan for distribution to the poor. On purchasing that much paddy, we end up paying tens of thousands of dollars each year for rice mills to convert paddy to rice for us. This year alone for example, Hidaya purchased over \$628,000 worth of paddy (about 3,350 tons) and it costed us over \$44,000 just for the milling.

To reduce future milling and packing costs, this year Hidaya purchased two combined rice mills for \$30,000 and two weighing and packing machines for fast packing for another \$30,000.

By bringing these capabilities in-house, Hidaya will save a lot of money and time in coming years in shaa Allah. Also we will have a better control on the whole process, allowing for better hygiene practices and assured quality of production.













Machinery being assembled at our warehouse in Pakistan

## Real Life Story - An Account of a Family Supported by Hidaya

Alhamdulillah, under our **Widow/Orphan Support** project, Hidaya has the honor of providing monthly support to over 5,000 widows or guardians and nearly 10,000 orphans. We wanted to share one such family's story (translated by our staff):



"I got married in 1990 and start living in Karachi. My husband was a laborer at a Garments Company and we spent 22 years together. In those 22 years Allah blessed us with six daughters and two sons. Though my husband was a low earning laborer, we strived hard to provide a good education to our children. We were low income but getting by, until suddenly the company in which my husband was working declared bankruptcy due to bad law and order situation.

This was a horrible turn for our family, as they held my husband's salary for more than one year. It felt worse than death for us due to our financial condition. There were no other jobs for him, so for our survival, my husband decided to sell our home and try to move abroad. Just when we had some hope, the travel agent who was helping my husband stole our life savings and fled with everything we had. It was too much for my husband to take, and he passed away after a severe heart attack.

For me, it was like the worst nightmare, and I had no idea what to do and how to survive. But what happened had happened and I had to get through it. I had six daughters and two sons under my responsibility and I had to work for their survival and education. In the beginning I lived in Karachi but soon I realized that the situation there was not conducive for us financially and I could not ensure a good education for my children there either as we were very vulnerable as law and order situation was not good. Therefore, I decided to return to my hometown of Abbottabad and started to live with my parents.

My parents were also not so well off that I could completely rely on their financial assistance so I took a loan to run finances of my family. Perhaps life's test was not over yet and my father too passed away after a few months and the social cover of the father had also gone. In this worsening condition another calamity fell upon me as my children left their studies, filling me with immense grief and sorrow. My elder son intended to support the family and started

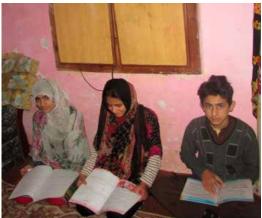
work at a hotel as a dishwasher which was heart-wrenching for me because he was an 8th-grade genius student. The house we were living in contained one room with just one wash-room. That's where we had to adjust with 9 members of our family.

In these gloomy days my son heard about an institution called Hidaya Trust that was supporting orphans in pursuing their education. We visited the office and they filled some forms and inquired about our economic condition by visiting our home. They found us deserving and they then proceeded with formal procedures. The day we received a call from Hidaya Trust that we have a cheque to receive was a ray of hope for us in a long time darkness. My children resumed their studies thankfully because of the support of Hidaya Trust. During all of this, my stress was lessened and I started teaching in a private school which gave us a little bit of earning.

When it seemed almost impossible for my children to even continue studying, this institution stood by my side and gave us financial assistance. I saw my children educated and, alhamdulillah, my elder son who had left studies at one time to become a dishwasher was able to receive a good education. Currently, he is serving in the army as an officer. It is with the blessings of Allah, and of course Hidaya's support to make this happen. My daughter who also had no chance at studying otherwise received a Masters in Islamiyat, and then was married and now she is a lecturer in Army Public School Muree, and serving society in the best possible way. My older children are serving the society by doing a job, leading a good, stable and dignified life. My younger 4 children are still studying with the support of Hidaya, alhamdulillah.

Hidaya supported me and my family in the worst times and also provided food in every Ramadan and never delayed in giving our monthly stipend. We don't have words to thank Hidaya family, But Allah knows that they are in our prayers."





Hidaya supports widows with a stipend of **\$40 per month** for household expenses, and each school aged orphan with a stipend of **\$10 per month** for educational expenses. For similar stories about other families we have supported through the Widow/ Orphan support project over the years - please see: https://www.hidaya.org/social-welfare/widow-orphan-support/cases/

## **Independent Auditor's Report for Fiscal Year 2019**

With the Blessings of Allah, on May 8, 2020, Hidaya Foundation successfully completed its 2019 financial audit. A copy of the audited financial statements (as well as previous year statements) are available for review at: www.hidaya.org/financials •

## Hidaya's 2019 Accomplishments

**No Orphan without Education:** Supported nearly 10,000 orphans with monthly assistance in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Guinea, Cameroon

**Support Hidaya Schools:** Operated 45 schools with over 5,000 students from KG – 8th grade in Pakistan

**Adult Education:** Educated over 700 non-literate male and female adults to 8th grade level in Pakistan

**Support Poor Students:** Supporting over 5,000 students at Hidaya's Schools

**Job Skills Training:** Trained over 700 students in sewing in Pakistan

**Hidaya Institute of Science & Technology (HIST):** Trained 174 graduate students in software development to prepare them for industry jobs

**Widow/Orphan Support:** Supported nearly 5,000 widows and their orphaned children with monthly assistance in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Guinea and Cameroon

**Marriage Support:** Helped 79 young couples with their marriages

**Container Shipment for In-Kind Donations:** Sent 37 forty ft. containers with donated goods to benefit the poor of Pakistan, worth over \$575,000, and sent 31 containers with purchased materials and foods worth nearly \$525,000 to benefit the poor in Asia and Africa

**One Million Meals:** Distributed over 58,000 dry ration packages to families in 14 countries, (Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Cameroon, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Benin, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo) enough for over 2.5 million meals

**Sadaqat-ul-Fitr:** Distributed dry ration packages to nearly 3,000 families, benefiting over 15,000 individuals in Sierra Leone, Burma, and Sri Lanka.

**Fidya:** Distributed nearly 7,500 dry ration packages on behalf of donors to families

**Kaffara:** Distributed nearly 350 dry ration packages on behalf of donors to families

Disaster Relief: Distributed food, clothing, blankets

and other materials to Rohingya Refugees in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh and provided initial cash assistance followed by distribution of work supplies to fisherman, brick layers and mechanics to help re-start the economy of Kunjir Village in South Lampung Indonesia after Tsunami devastated their area.

**Sadaqah Meat / Sadaqah Sacrifice:** Sacrificed 2,748 goats and 118 oxen and distributed the meat to benefit tens of thousands of families in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Guinea

**Aqiqah:** Sacrificed 233 goats on behalf of donors and distributed meat to benefit thousands of families

**Qurbani/Udhiya:** Arranged 5,662 shares of Qurbani/Udhiya on behalf of our donors (4,312 ox/buffalo shares, 1,350 goats/sheep) and distributed the meat to over 50,000 poor families throughout Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma), Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Sudan, Cameroon, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Togo, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Benin

**One Million Trees:** Planted over 3,500 seedlings with students and poor villagers in Pakistan

**Green Energy:** Running 10 of Hidaya Trust's facilities in Pakistan on solar power, reducing electricity costs and ensuring smoother operations during frequent power outages

**Clean Drinking Water:** Installed 1,018 water hand pumps on behalf of our donors in Pakistan and Bangladesh, and distributed over 900 million liters of water via water tanker benefiting hundreds of thousands of people in Pakistan

**Medical Assistance:** Arranged for over 1,500 examinations and treatments for patients in need

**Animal Farming:** Gave 75 cows to families for producing their own milk, and started process for rabbit farming

**Farmer Assistance:** Distributed over 1,000 bags of fertilizers to poor farmers

**Car Program:** Received 22 vehicles as donations and gave them away to families and individuals in need in the SF Bay Area, where Hidaya is headquartered •



Support Hidaya Schools



Clean Drinking Water



Widow/Orphan Support



Container Shipment for In-Kind Donations

## **Donation Form**

Name		Card No		
Email		Expiry Date: (mm/yy)		Visa, Master, Disc, Amex
Address		Zakat (Obligatory Charity)	Zakat	Amount Monthly
City		Sadaqah (Charity) Sadaqat-ul-Fitr		\$ □ \$
State	Zip	Fidya Coronavirus Crisis Relief		\$ \$ \$
Phone		One Million Meals Widow/Orphan Support		\$
Signature	Date	Other :  Total		\$ □ \$

Set-up a Monthly Donation (LEAVE THIS BOX BLANK IF YOU ARE DOING A ONE-TIME DONATION)

If you would like to set-up using your checking account (preferred), please include a voide check along with this donation form, or you may fill your card information in the space provided above. Note - please make sure to completely fill in the donor information section s we can properly set-up your donation. By signing, I would like to make this a month! donation for the project(s) that I have filled in above.

d S	Signature:	
0		
у	Starting Date:	