



Islamic Relief Worldwide

COVID-19 RESPONSE

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Contents

- Introduction**
- 2 COVID-19 response:**
Islamic Relief's three approaches
- 3 COVID-19 response:**
Our 12 Priority Focus Countries
- 14 Responding to COVID-19:**
Domestic programmes in our partner offices
- 16 Responding to COVID-19:**
UN and government partners
- 17 Responding to COVID-19:**
Our key asks



Introduction

Islamic Relief Worldwide is committed to a global COVID-19 response across its 34 field offices and 12 partner offices.

As part of this, we are delivering more than \$10 million in support for more than 20 countries as part of our core COVID-19 response, earmarked for tackling various aspects of the coronavirus crisis and supporting more than three million people globally in the initial response period.

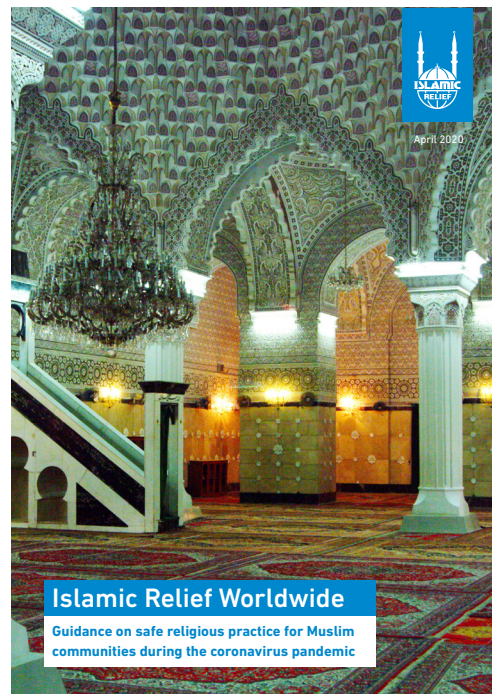
This includes active responses across Islamic Relief's partner offices in places like the US, Canada and the UK where we have been backing a myriad of domestic work aimed at helping those hardest-hit by COVID-19. It also involves support to 12 'Priority Focus Countries' across Asia, Africa and the Middle East where the scale and risk of the outbreak in vulnerable settings will potentially overwhelm an already weak health system. These include places such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Syria and South Sudan where we have been delivering vital services and supplies, including the distribution of tens of thousands of hygiene kits, made up of supplies like hand sanitisers, soap, masks, as well as fresh water and water containers.

By targeting vulnerable communities in the West, where the pandemic has had the greatest impact, as well as key priority countries in the Global South, which remain most at risk should the outbreak spread further, we have mounted a truly global response to the crisis.

Smaller scale support is additionally being provided to a select group of at-risk countries such as Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia, Jordan and Lebanon. Also we are exploring existing programmes, partnerships and separate funding opportunities across our remaining field offices.

By teaming up with various UN agencies, national governments and local faith communities, we have successfully provided scores of at-risk people, including children, with education and awareness-raising sessions aimed at stopping the spread of the disease.

Meanwhile we are rolling out our *Guidance on safe religious practice for Muslim communities during the coronavirus pandemic* to at-risk Muslim communities across the world. Modelled on lessons learnt during the Ebola crisis, the document serves as a guide for Muslims on how to adapt practices such as congregational prayers, burials and bereavement rituals to stay safe during the pandemic.



Visit www.islamicrelief.org to access the *Guidance on safe religious practice for Muslim communities during the coronavirus pandemic*.

Responding to COVID-19: Islamic Relief's three approaches

Islamic Relief is the world's largest Muslim faith-inspired international aid agency, delivering humanitarian relief and development programmes in over 40 countries, serving communities in need regardless of race, political affiliation, gender or belief. Our long-term engagement with communities has long allowed us to build trust and gain access to places where many other organisations cannot go. With this grass-roots acceptance as the foundation and guided by the principle of 'do no harm' - while ensuring the inclusion of marginalised people and those at most risk of being left behind - we have programmed our COVID-19 response through three approaches:

1. Community engagement for promoting good practices and information

Engaging communities and ensuring that individuals most at-risk have access to the supplies, education and awareness they need to keep safe is a key pillar of our response. We have delivered key equipment – ensuring supplies like gloves, masks and sanitisers make it to those in need – while our education and awareness campaigns about the risks of COVID-19 have often targeted the same at-risk communities.

We are also working with faith and community leaders to disseminate our *Guidelines on Safe Religious Practices*, which underline safe practices for burials and other collective religious practices. In separate initiatives, we are using sermons, prayers and radio, print and social media to spread awareness and end misinformation.

2. Supporting and strengthening health systems

Islamic Relief is extending support to existing local, provincial and national mechanisms, working closely with disaster management and public health authorities in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kenya, where we are providing health facilities with personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical equipment such as ventilators. In places like Yemen and northwest Syria where state power is weak, we have adapted existing health and nutrition programmes to ensure they aligned with pandemic response priorities and plans.

3. Ensuring the longer term and secondary impacts are factored from the outset

To ensure immediate support for the most vulnerable families, our global response fund is also being mobilised to provide emergency food security interventions and cash transfers amounting to over £325,000 (\$400,000) to countries that we have not designated as Priority Focus Countries. These include Albania, Jordan, Kosovo and Lebanon, in which we are targeting vulnerable groups such as children and women-headed households through our existing programmes. Recognising that the effects of this crisis will be felt for years to come, Islamic Relief will continue to engage in education and livelihoods interventions as well as advocating for and supporting social protection mechanisms.

Responding to COVID-19: Our 12 Priority Focus Countries

Islamic Relief's 12 priority countries in Asia, the Middle East, east Africa and west and southern Africa have been selected due to their vulnerability to COVID-19, their low capacity to handle the crisis as well as Islamic Relief's existing presence and response in country.

Asia

- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan

Middle East

- Occupied Palestinian Territory (Gaza), Syria and Yemen

East Africa

- Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan

West and Southern Africa

- Mali, Malawi and Niger

Asia

Islamic Relief operates across ten countries in Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka. In the region, we have identified **Afghanistan, Bangladesh** and **Pakistan** as priority countries for the first phase of our core COVID-19 response. Like many of our field offices, they have also separately adapted existing programming and partnerships to increase COVID-19 preparedness and resilience.



In Pakistan, we are engaging with imams to roll out our *Guidance on safe religious practice for Muslim communities during the coronavirus pandemic.*

Afghanistan

As of 9 June there have been 21,459 cases and 384 deaths. The main outbreak clusters are centred on Herat, Kabul, and Nimroz province, but cases have also been identified in Balkh, Nangarhar, Laghman, Ghor, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Kunar, Nuristan, Helmand, and Paktia.



Our response in Afghanistan has so far reached over 50,000 people across the country - in Herat, Balkh and Bamyan provinces in the west, Nangarhar in the east and Kabul in central Afghanistan. Our work to date includes:

- Supporting the Ministry of Public Health's task force to monitor the implementation of COVID-19 projects across Afghanistan.
- Using funding worth more than £260,000 (\$325,000) from UNOCHA's Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, to mobilise and spread awareness and prevention messages to over 100,000 people in Kabul, Balkh, Nangarhar and Kandahar. In addition we are, providing ambulance and logistical support to transfer referrals of serious cases to local hospitals in these areas.
- Working with the Swedish Development Agency (SIDA) we are providing hygiene kits, dignity kits and cash assistance to close to 20,000 people who are at risk of contracting the virus in several districts of Herat and Balkh. TV and social media are also being used to promote hygiene awareness in these communities.
- Working with the Directorate of Public Health (DoPH) to support 2,000 vulnerable people, including internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees and those in informal settlements, who will receive hygiene kits made up of supplies like shampoo and wipes.
- Delivering training for 30 DoPH staff and faith leaders on the risks of COVID-19.
- Disseminating prevention messages to over 30,000 people in Herat through FM radio broadcasts.
- Working with local authorities in Herat to give food vouchers to 6,300 people, and in Kabul, Balkh and Bamyan, providing over 22,000 people with food packs.

Additional support:

In the central provinces of Ghazni and Daykundi, community-based education activities that we run jointly with UNICEF have been adapted to support the COVID-19 response, with adverts on local TV channels now featuring infection prevention messaging for children. Child protection projects funded by UNICEF are also continuing and adapting with short video clips on child protection now airing on local TV.



Bangladesh

As of 9 June 2020, 71,675 cases with 975 deaths. Bangladesh observed a 66-day nationwide lockdown since 26 March that was later eased at the end of May. With the number of infections rising since, plans are underway to reimpose area-wise lockdowns in Dhaka the capital and elsewhere in the country.

Our responses have already reached more than 30,000 people throughout Bangladesh, from Dhaka in central Bangladesh to Khulna and Patuakhali in the south, Satkhira in the west and Jamalpur in the north west. Our focus is on providing emergency cash assistance, as well as livelihoods and essential food support to the most vulnerable, while also engaging with communities to increase COVID-19 awareness and preventions. We are one of the lead non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating on the ground, working collaboratively to advise the local government on how best to address the pandemic. Our activities include:

- In consultation and agreement with Department for International Development (DFID), part of its existing fund for a Monsoon Flood Recovery Project (MFRP) is being used to support COVID-19 response, where 6,000 people from 1,200 families have benefited from a £68 (\$85) unconditional contribution to each family. A further 400 families have received £85 (\$106) per family as unconditional cash grants. An additional 50 persons with disabilities received assistive devices that will enable them to carry out daily activities.
- Providing food packets as part of our Ramadan food distribution programme, reaching over 25,000 people in 10 districts across Bangladesh.
- Training community volunteers from an existing European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) funded project in the district of Jamalpur in north west Bangladesh on COVID-19 awareness and prevention. Disinfection materials have also been provided to these volunteers.
- Collaborating with UN Women in developing messages consisting of awareness and prevention of COVID-19, which is to also include information on GBV protection during the pandemic in the district of Patuakhali. Separate messages are also being developed for Imams to use during sermons, and for dissemination via local cable TV operators.
- Distributing WASH, shelter and non-food items reaching more than 3,500 people affected by Cyclone Amphan in the Khulna district.
- Providing 9,000 people from 1,800 families with food packages and hygiene kits. An additional 10,000 more people will have access to clean drinking water as part of the efforts being undertaken to clean drinking water sources contaminated during Cyclone Amphan.
- Providing 17,175 people from more than 3,000 families who survived Cyclone Amphan and those who are vulnerable to COVID-19 with cash grants funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)'s Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) project.

Additional work:

Islamic Relief is expanding program and partnerships to better target especially vulnerable groups such as women and children.

- Working with other NGOs such as World Vision, ActionAid and Oxfam in advising the government of Bangladesh on needs assessment and coordinating its COVID-19 response, including making sure children are protected during this pandemic.
- Stepping up engagement with Imams to further promote messaging tackling gender-based violence (GBV), which continues to rise during the lockdown period.
- Using our relationships within communities to reach out by phone to communicate COVID-19 awareness and prevention information to at-risk communities.

Pakistan

As of 9 June, there are 108,317 cases and 2,172 deaths. Cases are increasing nationwide, predominantly in Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkwa. Restrictions on markets and social gatherings have started to ease, despite rates of infection continuing to increase.

Islamic Relief Pakistan operates in five regions: Balochistan in the southwest, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the northwest, Azad Jammu and Kashmir in the north, Punjab in the east and Islamabad, the capital. Programmes in these areas are being adapted to COVID-19. We have already reached over 100,000 people in our response and we expect to reach more than a million people throughout Pakistan. In addition, Islamic Relief is also working at the national level through the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and others.

Work with national and local government includes:

- Equipping the NDMA and frontline health workers with over 2,000 PPE kits consisting of KN95 masks, face masks, surgical gowns and protective uniforms, hand sanitisers, gloves, shoe covers, face shields and goggles.
- Providing 5,000 face masks and 4,000 hand sanitisers to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and Health Department of Balochistan.
- Provided lifesaving medicine specific to the needs of pregnant and lactating women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities to 33 health facilities in the district of Pishin and Harnai in Balochistan. An Autoclave machine for sterilising surgical equipment and laboratory instruments as well as COVID-19 test kits have also been provided.

Financial support to communities includes:

- Partnering with Pakistan state institutions like EHSAS, Pakistan Baitul Mal, the Child Protection Bureau and local civil society organisations, to provide food packs to vulnerable families, reaching over 22,000 people throughout Pakistan.
- In Rawalpindi and Islamabad, cash support to buy food is being provided to women-headed households engaged with our child sponsorship programme has helped close to 25,000 people.
- New financing under the Islamic microfinance programme will also be made available to small and medium entrepreneurs to earn their livelihoods.



Awareness and prevention:

- Using platforms such as WhatsApp to share information around COVID-19 prevention and awareness with women-headed households engaged with our child sponsorship programme.
- Working with UNDP to provide health facilities and communities with awareness-raising material.
- Engaging youth volunteers registered with the Ministry of Climate Change to spread awareness and prevention messages via mobile phones.

Health support:

- Working with UNICEF, Islamic Relief is providing soap and water to district authorities in the Upperdir and Orakzai districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- Distributing disinfectants and erecting hand washing stations and prefabricated latrines in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.
- Close to 3,000 people, mostly women, have been receiving much-needed psychosocial support in dealing with the pandemic.

GBV protection:

Equipping the PDMA in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province with laptops to support their response to surging gender-based violence and protection issues during the pandemic.

Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe (MENA-EE)

Islamic Relief operates across 13 countries in the MENA-EE region: Albania, Bosnia, Russia (Chechnya), and Kosovo in eastern Europe and Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine (Gaza), Syria, Tunisia and Yemen in the MENA region. Our Priority Focus Countries for COVID-19 are currently **Gaza, Syria** and **Yemen**. However, we have also begun responding in Jordan with support for Syrian refugees, in Albania and Kosovo through cash transfers to vulnerable families, in Bosnia with aid for vulnerable migrants and in Tunisia by supporting public health infrastructure.



In responding to COVID-19 in one of our Priority Focus Countries, Syria, we have distributed over 100,000 pieces of medical supplies and equipment such as gloves, masks, and sterilising wipes to 50 health facilities.

Occupied Palestinian Territories – Gaza

As of 9 June 2020, 70 cases and one death have been confirmed.

Even before the crisis, 52 per cent of the population was living below the poverty line (OCHA HRP 2020). Fears are high that the closure of schools, markets, cafes, and shops will have devastating effects, robbing many families of their only source of income and causing food insecurity to skyrocket. Our COVID-19 response has therefore focused on:

- Providing 6,840 vulnerable people - daily workers and those who no longer have an income - in the Gaza Strip with cash vouchers to purchase essential food and hygiene items.
- Distributing emergency food packs to 16,500 people.
- Providing medical support, hygiene kits, and COVID-19 awareness materials to quarantine centres, hospitals and medical centres.
- Helping to disinfect public places such as hospitals and schools to help reduce the risk of infection.



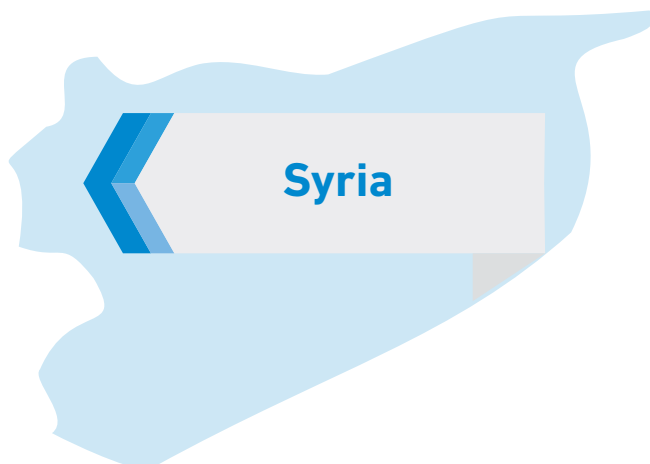
Occupied Palestinian Territories – Gaza

Syria

As of 9 June 2020, 144 cases and 6 deaths.
No cases in northwest Syria to date.

Islamic Relief has a very large health operation in northwest Syria, supporting 82 hospitals and medical centres with medicines and supplies, and paying the salaries of 150 doctors and nurses. We also run mobile emergency units - trucks that have been converted into ambulances and transportable operating rooms. Our COVID-19 response so far includes:

- Distributing over 100,000 pieces of medical supplies and equipment such as gloves, masks, and sterilising wipes to 50 health facilities.
- Distributing 35 specialised ICU and regular hospital beds and over 2,500 litres of sterilising alcohol to 15 health facilities - expected to benefit 62,500 people.
- Prioritising medical supply provision that could alleviate COVID-19 symptoms. This includes items like antipyretics, bronchodilators, nebulisers and nebulisation masks that Islamic Relief has provided to more than 30 health facilities so far.
- Distributing bronchodilation nebulisers to 5 health facilities, catering to an estimated 15,000 people.
- Providing specific training on appropriate disinfection procedures and measures to limit COVID-19 transmission for staff across 20 key health facilities.
- Plans are underway to distribute brochures on COVID-19 prevention, detection and treatment across the 82 health facilities we support and supplying TV screens to play COVID-19 awareness videos in key medical facilities.



Yemen

Yemen

As of 9 June 2020, 496 cases and 92 deaths have been confirmed.

Islamic Relief has a large-scale presence in Yemen, operating across 17 of the 22 governorates and providing support to 156 health facilities across the country. Working with the World Food Programme (WFP) we also deliver food support to more than two million people every month.

To date, our COVID-19 response has been focused on supporting the health system and expanding existing programmes and partnerships to bolster local preparedness and response.

- Disseminating COVID-19 awareness messages which have reached close to 1.7 million people, while installing hand sanitation facilities in all food distribution sites run by Islamic Relief and WFP in order to maintain hygiene and safety.
- Providing infection prevention and control training to staff in quarantine centres and training healthcare workers on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Case Management.
- Working with UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA, we have given ready-to-eat meals and hygiene kits to over 792 people in quarantine centres in the capital, Sanaa, and the city of Dhammar. Dignity kits for women have also been provided.
- Providing blankets and mattresses to the quarantine centres in Sana'a, Dhammar, Sa'ada, and Amran governorates.
- Supporting the COVID-19 response in a healthcare facility in Taiz, which provides medical services to 8,000 people in the area.
- Awarding monthly financial provisions to 25 key frontline health workers, with more to be awarded in in late June.
- Conducting needs assessments of possible isolation centres in key areas.

East Africa

In east Africa, Islamic Relief operates across five countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

The primary focus for COVID-19 to date has been in **Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan**, however, we have also supported health infrastructure and cash transfers in **Sudan**.



We are also scaling up our existing programmes to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. In Somaliland, Puntland and southern and central Somalia, Islamic Relief Somalia will be providing water for handwashing and plans are underway to install and rehabilitate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities.

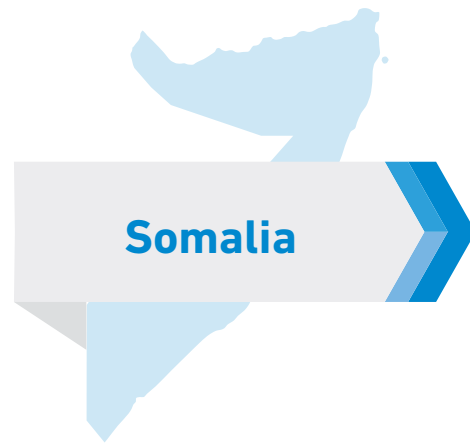
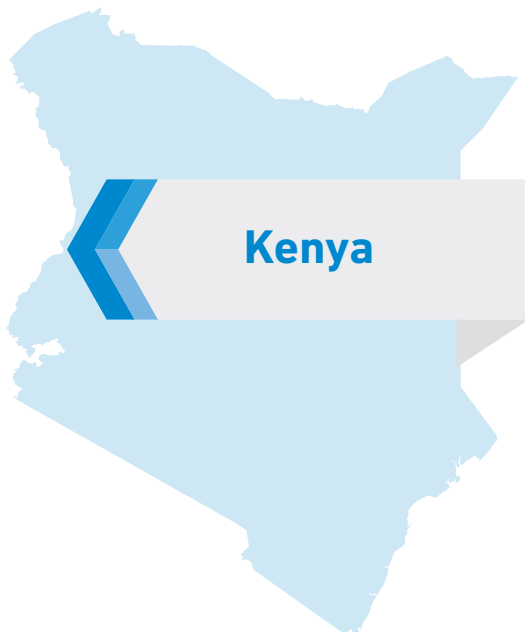
Kenya

As of 9 June 2020, 2,989 cases and 88 deaths have been confirmed. Nairobi, Mombasa and Mandera is on lockdown and a nationwide night-time curfew has been extended as part of containment efforts.

Islamic Relief Kenya is working closely with the Ministry of Health's a Rapid Response Team to carry out awareness and sensitisation activities and to provide PPE to vulnerable households. Islamic Relief is also working with the Mandera county authorities in the north to raise local awareness on social distancing and handwashing.

Our work includes:

- Providing PPEs as well as hygiene kits consisting of hand sanitisers and face masks to county departments in Kenya.
- Giving food vouchers to almost 2,500 people.
- Assisting 330 extremely vulnerable households through offering cash transfers for three months to cover emergency food needs.
- Sensitising communities on preventing the spread of COVID-19 through roadshows in Mandera County.



Somalia

As of 9 June 2020, 2,416 cases with 85 deaths have been confirmed.

Islamic Relief has an active presence throughout the main areas of central and southern Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland. Its main COVID-19 response includes:

- Donating an ambulance to the Ministry of Health to help transport suspected COVID-19 cases and others to the hospital.
- Working with the Ministry of Health's trainers on capacity building and providing PPEs to health facilities.
- Providing 20,000 people with water and hygiene kits.
- Installing or rehabilitating WASH facilities in southern and central Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland and installing handwashing facilities at our food distribution points.
- Giving food vouchers to 4,500 people and supporting livelihoods through cash transfers.
- Engaging with communities in the areas IR is in to spread awareness and prevention messages using radio broadcasts, as well as handing out posters and using loudspeakers to push messages out in public areas. Awareness and prevention messages are also being spread at the Daynile IDP settlement.

Additional work:

Programmes in southern and central Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland are also being scaled up. Aiming to target the IDP population, Islamic Relief will provide thousands of the most vulnerable with water for handwashing. Existing networks of faith and community leaders are also being engaged to spread COVID-19 awareness and prevention messages through radio broadcasts, TV programmes and text messaging.

South Sudan

South Sudan is one of the most food insecure and volatile countries in the world. As of 9 June 2020, there are 1,604 confirmed cases.

Islamic Relief has field offices in Juba, Central Equatoria state in the southwest and Toni North County, Warrap state in the northwest. In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from Kenya into South Sudan, another field office has been established in Narus, Kapoeta East (Namoronyang state) in the southeast, 10 kilometres away from the Nadapal checkpoint at the South Sudan-Kenya border. Our activities include:

- Conducting daily, 24-hour COVID-19 screening on those crossing the Nadapal checkpoint at the South Sudan-Kenya border.
- Providing training to healthcare workers, including IR staff to screen for COVID-19 symptoms such as high temperature, dry cough and shortness of breath.
- Working with the Ministry of Health, to establish and equip isolation tents for suspected cases at the official South Sudan-Kenya border checkpoint and in healthcare facilities in the nearby towns of Lopua and Narus in Kapoeta East.
- Distributing water containers, soap, hand sanitisers and handwashing utensils, like water containers, to 9,000 people in Kapoeta East and North. A further 1,500 elderly and women-headed households in Kapoeta East will also be receiving these items, including face masks and hygiene kits.
- Broadcasting messages on COVID-19 awareness and prevention through the radio, and using megaphones, posting billboards in towns and communicating the message on foot, door-to-door (while maintaining social distancing) to reach up to 30,000 people in Kapoeta East.
- Equipping healthcare facilities and primary healthcare centres (PHC) in Lopua, Nadapal, Napotpot and Narus in Kapoeta East with basic infection prevention and control supplies such as soap, bucket and hand washing stations.
- Providing health training on COVID-19 awareness and prevention as well as PPE including gowns, masks, face shields, and digital thermometers to help screen suspected COVID-19 cases in healthcare facilities in Kapoeta East.
- Plans are underway to rehabilitate 10 water points in communities and healthcare facilities in Kapoeta East.
- Conducting awareness training for communities living near the South Sudan-Kenya border to encourage them to report anyone who has crossed the border to the nearest healthcare facility for COVID-19 symptom screening. This includes training key members of the community, such as women/mothers and religious leaders on basic preventive and control measures of COVID-19.



West and Southern Africa (WASA) Regional Focus

Islamic Relief operates across five countries in the WASA region: Central African Republic (CAR), through our partners, as well as Malawi, Mali, Niger and South Africa. Assessing the high risk and vulnerabilities of the health systems in these countries, and our presence and ability to scale-up a response, we have placed a specific focus on **Malawi, Mali, and Niger**.



Islamic Relief South Africa has delivered food parcels to over 50,000 people in the Western Cape province of the country.



Mali

As of 9 June 2020, 1,547 cases and 92 deaths have been confirmed.

The COVID-19 response largely focuses on reaching vulnerable communities in the capital Bamako - such as IDPs and older people - and supporting health workers with hygiene kits and awareness and sensitisation to COVID-19.

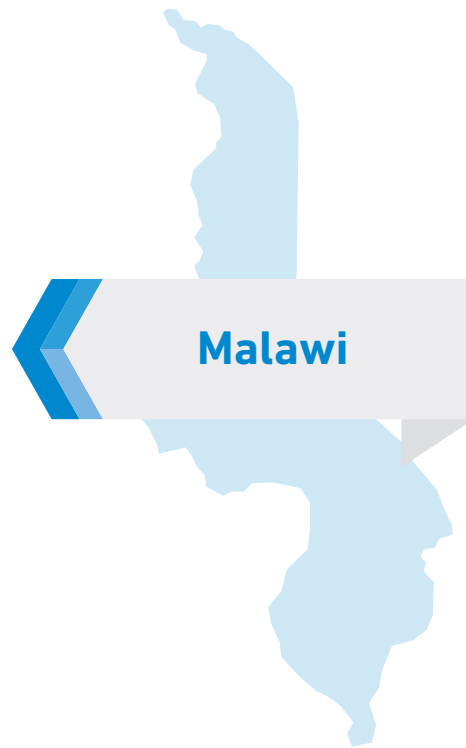
- Giving WASH kits to 1,710 IDPs across four IDP sites in Bamako districts.
- Training 60 IDPs in camps on COVID-19 awareness and prevention, to be active members of the Community Response Team to disseminate lifesaving information.
- Engaging with faith and community leaders to disseminate messages on infection prevention.

Malawi

Malawi is one of the world's poorest countries, with a fragile health system. As of 9 June 2020, 443 cases and 4 deaths have been confirmed.

Close to 16,000 people from six communities have been reached through awareness and sensitisation meetings and campaigns held in areas bordering Mozambique.

- Distributing over 3,000 posters and materials on COVID-19 to communities.
- Giving out 1,500 family safety kits containing water and soap.



Niger

Niger

Niger has declared a state of emergency for the entire country, lasting through July 11. However, the ban on visiting places of worship and the curfew imposed on the capital, Niamey, since March have now been lifted. 973 cases with 65 deaths have been confirmed as of 9 June 2020.

Islamic Relief Niger's response focuses on raising awareness to prevent the spread of coronavirus, as well as providing food vouchers to those affected by movement restriction orders. IR is:

- Supplying gloves, masks and hygiene kits to health centres serving 12 hard-to-reach rural communities in the central and southern regions of Niamey and Tillaberi.
- Giving food vouchers to nearly 10,000 people in 12 rural communities and in Niger's capital, Niamey. Some 255 older people who are confined to their homes will receive food and essential items.
- Using telephones to reach out to vulnerable communities with COVID-19 awareness and sensitisation information.



Responding to COVID-19: Domestic programmes in our partner offices

Islamic Relief's partner offices are assisting in our worldwide COVID-19 response and have also pledged to help vulnerable people in their own countries:

Islamic Relief USA

2 million cases with 113,214 deaths as of 9 June 2020.

Islamic Relief USA has dedicated £2.5 million (\$3.1 million) to its domestic COVID-19 emergency response, providing support to more than 140 partners across the United States to get critical assistance to communities that are in desperate need of support.

To date, its response spans 32 states and has reached thousands of individuals in the USA, with activities including:

- Providing emergency food boxes to ensure that peoples' nutritional needs are adequately met, and food security is improved. These food boxes consist of 18 items such as vegetable oil, rice, pasta, lentils, sugar, tuna other items from different food groups.
- Distributing hygiene kits in an effort to improve public health. The kits contain items such as hand sanitisers, bar soap, lotion, sanitary pads, wet wipes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and shampoo.
- Contributing PPE such as surgical masks, N95 masks to healthcare workers, and reusable cloth face masks for vulnerable populations to prevent community spread of COVID-19.
- Through the provision of these essential items, Islamic Relief USA seeks to reduce food insecurity, financial setbacks, and health-related complications across the country as much as practically possible.

Islamic Relief Canada

96,244 cases with 7,835 deaths as of 9 June 2020.

Islamic Relief Canada's response focuses on providing hygiene kits to homeless shelters and families across Canada. The second phase of support has already begun, where financial assistance to those living below the poverty line is being provided. To date, its activities have included:

- Distributing 5,000 hygiene and 700 food kits across the country.
- Providing 17,500 masks to hospitals and long-term care facilities.
- Providing financial assistance to approximately 130 families across Canada.
- Delivering more than 2,000 warm meals across four major cities in Canada.

Islamic Relief UK

287,399 cases with 40,597 deaths as of 9 June 2020.

Islamic Relief UK is undertaking needs assessments and scoping out local partners to identify how it might support their responses to COVID-19, including through providing food, financial assistance and also in faith community engagement to promote coronavirus awareness and prevention messages. Activities to date include:

- Making £500,000 (\$630,000) available to support emergency COVID-19 response through collaborations with local organisations, starting with a foodbank and community hub in the capital, London.
- Partnering with the National Zakat Foundation (NZF), giving financial support to desperate families so they can buy essential and urgent items such as food, toiletries and nappies.
- Provided £30,000 (\$38,125) to CW+, the official charity of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (CWFT) in London to help support its newly-expanded intensive care facilities with new equipment such as portable workstations and syringe pumps.

Islamic Relief Malaysia

8,336 cases with 117 deaths as of 9 June 2020.

- Distributing food to over 3,000 people including the refugee communities, stateless persons (in Borneo) and those in the rural areas of Malaysia.
- Cash assistance is being provided to 250 families.
- Assisting hospitals and quarantine centres through distributing food items, over 1,000 face masks and other medical supplies such as pharmaceutical refrigerators and ventilators.

Islamic Relief Spain

288,797 cases and 27,136 deaths as of 9 June 2020.

Islamic Relief Spain is working with Spanish authorities to distribute food packs in Madrid, Barcelona and Almeria, aiming to provide food to 200 particularly vulnerable families a week.

Islamic Relief Italy

235,278 cases and 33,964 deaths as of 9 June 2020.

In Lombardy, Italy's hardest-hit region, Islamic Relief volunteers are shopping and delivering food to vulnerable people including those who are older or who have health conditions.

Along with local partners and mosques, teams distributed food packs to over 1,300 families in need during Ramadan in 14 cities across Italy, including in Milan, Verona, Torino, Vicenza, Bologna, Bergamo and Rome.

Islamic Relief Italy is also providing financial support to a small number of Muslim families who are struggling to pay for funerals.



Islamic Relief Germany

186,313 cases and 8,802 deaths as of 9 June.

As the German government has made wearing a face mask compulsory in public spaces, Islamic Relief Germany is working with mosques in several German states, to distribute face masks to vulnerable members of the community. Islamic Relief Germany is also holding live online sessions with doctors and nutritionists on Facebook and Whatsapp to spread awareness and prevention information on COVID-19 and to promote healthy living.

With the closure of schools throughout the country, tuition classes on mathematics and the German language for children are also being organised. In addition to an existing counselling service helping people cope with the pandemic, Islamic Relief Germany has also launched an app in order to offer the service more widely.

Islamic Relief South Africa

50,879 cases and 1,080 deaths as of 9 June 2020.

As a key strategic partner of the Department of Social Development, Islamic Relief South Africa is working with local government to support the national food relief strategy. Having secured £177,000 (\$212,000) in government funding, it has delivered food parcels to about 50,000 people in the Western Cape province.

Islamic Relief South Africa has also secured £243,000 (\$238,000) from a newly established funding platform, the 'Solidarity Fund', to deliver food parcels to an additional 60,000 people.

In addition, more than 6,175 hygiene kits have reached vulnerable individuals, while online and community-based awareness campaigns, aiming to stop the spread of the virus are currently underway.

Islamic Relief Australia

7,267 cases and 102 deaths as of 9 June 2020.

Working with over 18 Australian Muslim organisations, Islamic Relief Australia has been delivering food packs to people with disabilities, low-income families, homeless people, refugees and asylum seekers, and front-line workers. To date, more than 1,000 food packs have been distributed throughout Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

Across Islamic Relief's offices, we have been backing a myriad of domestic work aimed at helping those hardest-hit by COVID-19. Islamic Relief Canada in its initial COVID-19 response is providing hygiene kits to homeless shelters and families across the country.

Responding to COVID-19: UN and government partners

Islamic Relief's global response is further supported by existing partnerships and programmes in field offices which we are adapting to better support national response plans or meet unique local needs.

This work includes:

- Engaging with communities, including with faith leaders, to disseminate COVID-19 awareness and prevention messages.
- Providing PPE and medical supplies to local authorities and health centres.
- Delivering food packs, vouchers and cash transfers to vulnerable families.

To better support communities in need, Islamic Relief is working with our UN partners such as **UNOCHA, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and the WFP** to provide aid and services. We are also coordinating with the UN to support the revised UNOCHA £5.78 billion (\$7.27 billion) COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan. Through our work with the START Fund*, we are also scaling up emergency responses in South Sudan, Gaza and Yemen.



We adapted our COVID-19 response to better support national plans or meet unique local needs, for example, we have donated an ambulance to the Ministry of Health Somalia to help with transporting suspected COVID-19 and other cases to the hospital.

At the national level, we are supporting key government departments and ministries in countries including **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, Pakistan and Yemen**. This will help them better respond to COVID-19 and ensure that together we are reaching the most vulnerable.

Globally, we are also actively working with many of our government donors, such as the UK and Sweden to support their international COVID response.

**Islamic Relief is a founding member of the START Network - a network of 42 national and international aid agencies, which oversees the multi-donor pooled START Fund that provides fast and direct funding to NGOs for 'under the radar' crises. Members of the Network includes ACTED, International Rescue Committee, Oxfam, Action Against Hunger, CARE International, and many more.*



Islamic Relief USA is funding our COVID-19 responses in 15 countries worldwide, including Bangladesh, Mali, Pakistan, and Yemen. It has also dedicated £2.5 million (\$3.1 million) to COVID-19 emergency response domestically, providing support to more than 140 partners across 32 states to get critical assistance to communities that are in desperate need of support.

Responding to COVID-19:

Our key asks

Faith based perspectives: The role of faith and faith actors is crucial. Their ability to act as key public health promoters and providers must be recognised. It is critical to effectively support and engage them, integrating them into national and global responses in order to maximise their impact and reduce any negative actions such as inaccurate information being promoted.

Essential humanitarian services must go on: We support global government closures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but they must not prevent essential humanitarian services from being delivered. Governments must work with aid organisations to develop realistic and flexible plans. When necessary they must issue exemptions that allow agencies and their staff critical access while respecting best practice social distancing guidelines whenever possible.

Uphold commitment to refugees and asylum seekers: Islamic Relief is concerned about the rights of displaced people, who have often been ignored or further marginalised by measures and restrictions enacted to stop the spread of COVID-19. This includes an increased risk to refugees and those seeking asylum. We call on governments and international actors to prioritise non-discrimination on all grounds in COVID-19 plans and responses. They also must ensure that international humanitarian law and global commitments regarding the rights and protection of refugees and access to asylum are upheld.

Gender-based violence protections must be prioritised: The risks and needs around gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health are growing in this pandemic, however the services needed to respond are at risk of being starved of resources. To ensure vital budgets are not diverted, we call for a broader spectrum of actors - including NGOs, civil society, and global governments - to be involved. Support for referrals, legal services, mental health and well-being must all be protected, and increased weight given to promoting gender-sensitivity with regards to training, programming and resources.

Global ceasefire: Peace cannot wait. We must all unite to face the enormous challenge of COVID-19. We call on all governments and armed groups worldwide to lay down arms and institute an immediate global ceasefire to protect people from COVID-19, as outlined by calls made by the United Nations Secretary General on March 23.

Funding: Adapting existing programming alone cannot combat a pandemic. It is therefore imperative that the donor community adopts a 'no regrets' approach to investment in making available additional financing to deliver an effective global COVID-19 response - particularly in public health messaging and capacity. This would deliver significant long-term value.

- COVID-19 financing must be in addition to, not in place of, existing pledges to support humanitarian appeals.
- Contributions to UN appeals are vital but resources and flexible arrangements must also filter down to the agencies best able to deliver on the ground.

Country specific calls:

Syria: Islamic Relief strongly supports the UN Secretary General's call for a complete, immediate nationwide ceasefire across Syria. This is crucial to enabling an all-out effort to suppress COVID-19 and to lead to lasting peace.

Yemen: Humanitarian funding for critical life-saving assistance must be maintained and pressure applied by donor governments on warring parties to immediately de-escalate the conflict to ensure the right conditions to facilitate response to COVID-19.

Sahel: (specifically Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger): Islamic Relief calls on governments, international actors and the donor community to ensure access to PPE for health personnel and humanitarian workers and training to limit the risk to them and their communities. Additionally, we call on all parties to establish facilities to enable humanitarian assistance to be delivered, subject to appropriate public health and safety arrangements.

Medical and humanitarian staff should be considered 'essential personnel' and allowed to move freely in the course of their work. To maintain lifesaving activities this should apply to the movement of staff and cargo within Sahel countries, and essential international humanitarian personnel and material from abroad.



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