

A woman wearing a pink hijab and a blue shirt with a white polka-dot pattern is smiling as she tends to green plants in a hydroponic system. The background is a lush green wall of plants.

# ISLAMIC RELIEF IN INDONESIA

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH  
DISASTER AND BEYOND


# ISLAMIC RELIEF IN INDONESIA

Islamic Relief is a faith-inspired humanitarian and development agency working to save and transform the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people. Established in the UK in 1984, we work in over 40 countries, assisting people according to need, and do not discriminate in any way.

Islamic Relief began supporting the people of Indonesia in 2000. We have grown from one office in Jakarta, to operating in five provinces across the vast island nation. Over more than two decades, our teams have responded to several major emergencies, including one of the deadliest disasters in recorded history - the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, which killed more than 150,000 people in Indonesia alone.

Emergency response is vital in Indonesia, which is highly vulnerable to natural disasters including earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. Such events can rob families of their livelihoods in an instant, so Islamic Relief also focuses on long-term development projects to support those affected by disasters to become self-reliant once more.

We rebuild schools, offer training to help people earn a reliable living, and work with communities and authorities to ensure they are as prepared as possible to face future extreme weather events. Indonesia is one of many nations on the frontline of the climate emergency, and Islamic Relief is also supporting communities to adapt to the reality of climate change.



**Kasmita received food packs during the pandemic to keep herself and her children well nourished.**

# WHERE WE WORK

With a team of 40 staff and five partners, Islamic Relief serves communities in key locations throughout Indonesia. Our country office in Jakarta liaises with field offices in Central Sulawesi, Aceh, Banten and West Nusa Tenggara. We travel to areas at their time of greatest need, and have previously launched long-term responses elsewhere in the country.



Indonesia's location and geography make our country susceptible to many kinds of disasters – from flash floods and drought to landslides and wildfires. Spread across three tectonic plates, Indonesia also suffers large earthquakes that can trigger tsunamis around once every five years, and has 127 active volcanoes that can erupt at any time. The National Disaster Management Agency has reported that more than 3,000 disasters hit Indonesia each year.

Each disaster has an effect on communities and can risk undoing years of development work in a matter of seconds. Each year, 5-10 million people are affected by disasters and between 100 and 5,000 people are killed on average. Hundreds of thousands of homes are destroyed and public infrastructure can be severely damaged.

Over more than 20 years, Islamic Relief has invested more than £40 million in Indonesia and helped to save and improve the lives of more than 1.7 million people through our humanitarian and development programmes.

When disaster strikes, we assist people from the onset through to recovery. We help with evacuations, supply water, food and other survival items, and provide emergency shelter. We offer psychosocial support to children affected by disasters and run cash-for-work programmes so communities can earn an income.

In the weeks, months and years following a disaster, we strive to rebuild local economies and infrastructure, help boost livelihoods and work in education, health and sanitation to ensure the basic needs of communities are met. We also work together with local governments and community and religious leaders to build resilience in anticipation of future disasters.

Islamic Relief is also investing heavily in educating communities on how to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, which are being heavily felt in Indonesia, while working with the government to promote a green economy.

I'd like to thank our teams of staff and volunteers for their dedication in making this vital work possible, and our donors and partners for their incredible generosity. Please continue to support Islamic Relief in improving conditions for the most vulnerable people in Indonesia.



**Nanang Subana Dirja**

Country Director  
Islamic Relief Indonesia

# HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN INDONESIA



Population:  
Over **276 million** people

More than **3,000**  
**disasters** strike each year



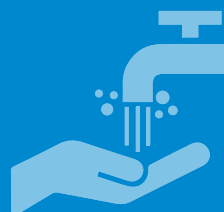
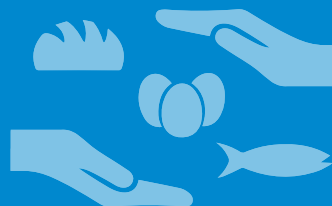
About **10% of**  
**people** live below  
the poverty line

Over **140 million**  
people live in  
earthquake-prone areas



More than **5 million**  
children are orphans

Around **16.7 million**  
people don't know where their  
next meal is coming from



Some **20% of people**  
lack access to proper sanitation

# IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Islamic Relief began working in  
Indonesia in 2000. Since then, we have:

Supported **1.7**  
million people



Delivered programmes  
worth £40 million



Helped more than  
104,000 people build  
sustainable livelihoods



Reached 343,000  
children through  
education programmes



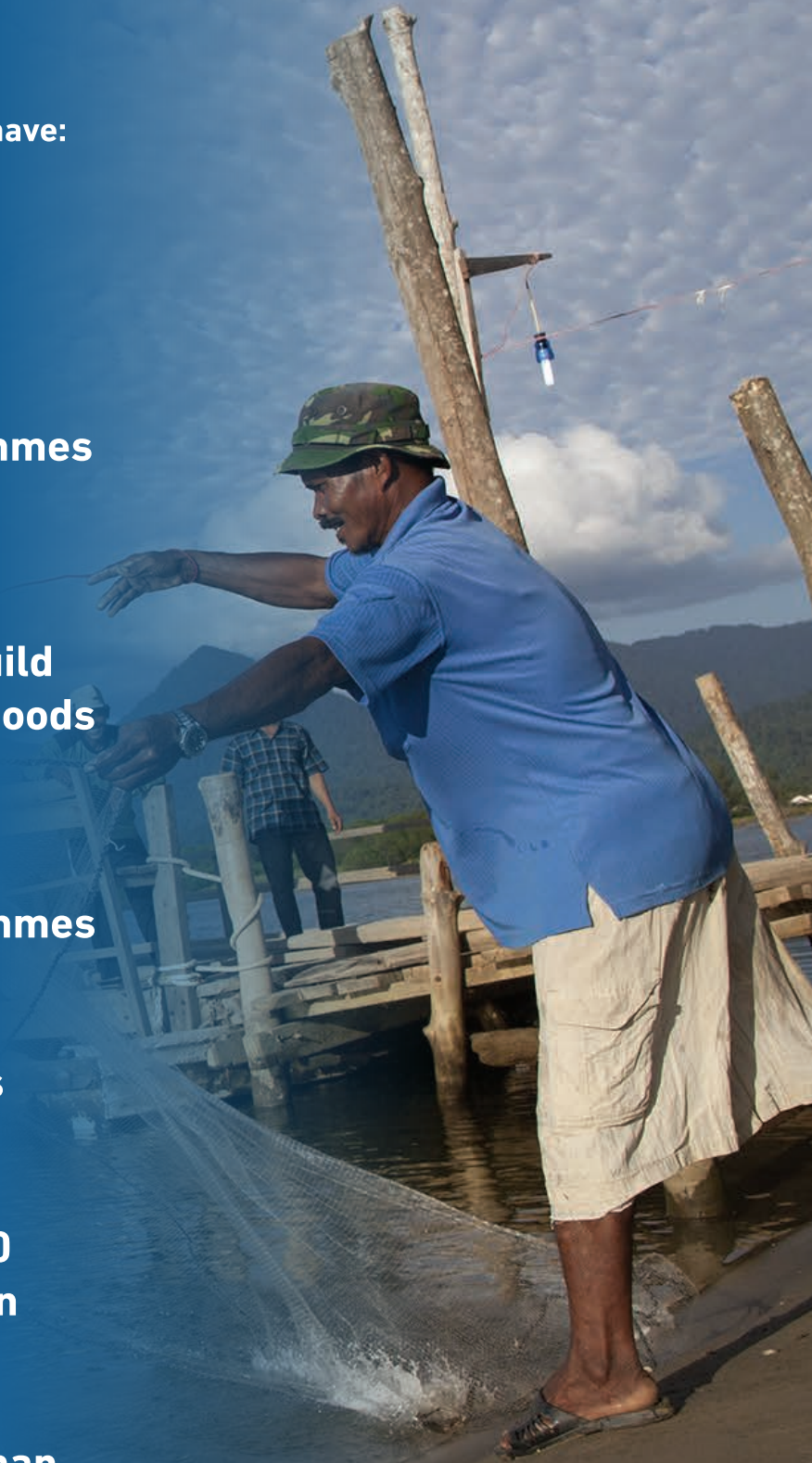
Responded to  
11 major disasters



Eased hunger of  
more than 600,000  
people at Ramadan  
and Eid



Supported more than  
2,000 orphans



# A THRIVING BUSINESS



**Juarni's family lost their livelihood when an earthquake and tsunami destroyed many acres of agricultural land around Palu, Central Sulawesi in 2018. With the help of Islamic Relief, Juarni is now running her own small business.**

"Before the earthquake, my husband worked as a farmer, but afterwards, we could not cultivate the land because it was so damaged. But I did not give up. I kept looking for other ways to make money and started selling yellow rice at evacuation centres."

Juarni, 45, heard about an Islamic Relief women's empowerment programme and decided to join as she needed to help support her family.

"We were so delighted when Islamic Relief came. I had a small business before the earthquake, but I had to give it up because I was living in an evacuation centre. After joining the women's empowerment programme, I could run my business again."

Now, Juarni is selling homemade crisps, mainly using ingredients her husband plants near their home. After frying, seasoning and drying the crisps, she sells them online through WhatsApp.

"We received a lot of training from Islamic Relief to expand our experience and skills and my business has improved and is running smoothly – my product was even promoted at an event in Bali!

"I am so delighted because through this business I can meet our daily needs and help my husband with our family income.

"Islamic Relief is so kind in assisting this small business, particularly during Ramadan, when there was a special market where I sold my product. I hope that Islamic Relief will continue to be successful. Their programmes and services are the best!"



# OVER TWO DECADES OF LIFE-SAVING SUPPORT

**2000**

Islamic Relief begins working in Indonesia. From an office in Banten province, we work to combat a waterborne disease outbreak in the area.



**Islamic Relief**  
Worldwide



**2004**

Indonesia is hit by the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami – the third largest earthquake ever recorded. Islamic Relief distributes food, water and tents to survivors.

**2006**

Each year, Islamic Relief supports hundreds of orphaned children to enjoy a safe and happy childhood.



**2007**

Islamic Relief starts running disaster risk deduction activities to help prepare communities for future disasters.

**2010**

Multiple eruptions of Mount Merapi over several weeks claim the lives of more than 100 people. Islamic Relief provides aid including food, water and other essentials to evacuees.



**2018**

Lombok, Central Sulawesi and Banten provinces are hit by major disasters. Islamic Relief responds to the emergencies and begins planning long-term development projects for affected areas.

**2020**


Covid-19 arrives in Indonesia. Islamic Relief assists hospitals in Jakarta, to raise awareness of safety precautions in communities and adapts its programmes to run safely during the pandemic.



**2022**

Islamic Relief responds quickly with emergency shelter when an earthquake strikes West Java.

# ISLAMIC RELIEF'S PROGRAMMES



Fareeha sits among  
the wreckage from  
an earthquake and  
tsunami in Palu.

## Lifesaving humanitarian assistance

Islamic Relief is a lifeline when disaster strikes. We respond quickly to earthquakes, flash foods, tsunamis and other extreme weather events. We provide emergency shelter, food and water to uprooted communities, including those living in hard-to-reach areas. We help local people protect themselves from future disasters, working closely with communities, local authorities and faith leaders to build their knowledge and resilience. Islamic Relief has also sponsored more than 2,000 orphaned children, helping to meet their basic needs and support their education.



**Fish are released to be cultivated to provide a reliable source of food and income in Petobo.**

## Life-changing development programmes

We work closely with the communities we serve to repair the damage caused by disasters and to soften the long-term impact. We rebuild schools, homes and water and hygiene facilities, ensuring people have access to basic services. We retrain those who have lost their livelihoods and empower women to start and grow sustainable businesses. Indonesia is extremely vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change, so we help communities to protect themselves through projects such as planting trees as flood barriers.

# **“I’M SO GRATEFUL MY BUSINESS HAS BECOME A SUCCESS”**

**The 2018 earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi robbed Susi, 39, and her family of their livelihood. With the help of Islamic Relief, she set up a roadside kiosk. Susi’s business has been so successful that her family is no longer reliant on aid.**

“My previous business was ruined when the disaster struck. My husband and I were farmers but we couldn’t farm because the irrigation system was damaged. I tried other types of businesses like selling ice pops and meatballs and growing vegetables, but I could never continue because I lacked the capital.

“Someone told me Islamic Relief was offering assistance to people to start businesses and I applied. I started the kiosk because I thought that many people living in temporary houses after the disaster would need to buy their daily food.

“It’s been two or three years now and my customers are not only people from around here, they also come from elsewhere. Many of my customers are people just passing by the kiosk. My husband helps me in the shop and the best-selling items are rice, oil and sugar.

“Alhamdulillah, I am so grateful because my business has been a success. I hope my other friends can be like me and start a business from zero. I hope my business will continue to run well and become even more successful.

“I would like to thank Islamic Relief – it is because of them that I can be like this. I hope Islamic Relief can help many more people in need.”



# SUPPORTING YOUNG LEARNERS

**Marshanda in  
a school  
rebuilt by  
Islamic Relief  
in Pakuli.**



Disasters often have a serious and lasting impact on children's access to education. School buildings can be destroyed, and the journey to school can become dangerous. Displacement following disasters also scatters communities, including teachers and pupils.

Unwillingness to rebuild in areas at risk from disaster can leave children without a safe place to learn. It can take months, if not years, to get children back in the classroom, with many learning in tents and temporary buildings that become stiflingly hot in the summer. The Covid-19 pandemic also interrupted children's access to learning, forcing many classes online.

Islamic Relief is committed to supporting education in Indonesia by rebuilding and repairing schools after disasters. We help ensure children have everything they need to learn comfortably, by supplying textbooks, stationery and sports equipment.

We provide uniforms to those who cannot afford to buy their own, and care for children's health by providing hot meals at schools and nurseries. We have also created child-friendly spaces with psychosocial support activities to help children cope with trauma following disasters.



# “ISLAMIC RELIEF SAVED US”



**Ikhwan, 59, has been the headmaster of a primary school in Pakuli, Central Sulawesi for 15 years. In 2018, a disaster in the area destroyed the school building, leaving more than 100 young children without a safe place to learn.**

“The earthquake destroyed the school and learning could not take place in the building, so the students learned outside in nature,” says Ikhwan.

“After the earthquake, we studied outdoors, moving from one place to another several times. At first, we studied in a field, then in a tent given by donors. After that, a charity gave us a temporary building.

“We thank Islamic Relief as they agreed, to help us rebuild the building. Islamic Relief cared about the needs of children here at that time. It saved us.”

Remembering the time spent teaching in tents, Zainab, a teacher at the school whose daughter is also a pupil there, said it was a difficult period for pupils and teachers.

“I think there were many negative effects of having no permanent classrooms. The children were not active in the classroom as they had been before the earthquake. Some experienced trauma because they can remember the event, so they became less focused and could not concentrate when learning. The teachers felt the same.

“We hope that in the future, the students can learn comfortably. Now, the facility is decent, there is enough equipment, and we are safe here.”

“Finally, Islamic Relief came and helped us to construct a permanent building for our school,” Ikhan recalls. “The students can study safely and quietly in the classroom now. Even our local government is really grateful for the help of Islamic Relief in constructing such a well-built school for the children here.



**Children at a school rebuilt by Islamic Relief.**

■ Zainab



# PREPARING FOR FUTURE DISASTERS

Volunteers identify evacuation sites for future disasters.



Emergency response is a key part of Islamic Relief's work and a real lifeline to people in need, but in Indonesia, simply responding to emergencies is not enough. Indonesians know it is not a question of *if* another disaster will strike, only where and when.

Islamic Relief is committed to working with communities and authorities to build knowledge and expertise in disaster risk reduction.

We educate local people on what to do in the event of a disaster, identify suitable evacuation sites and run drills in conjunction with other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local emergency services.

Islamic Relief has also been working with faith leaders and religious sites to strengthen their role in disaster response, including in helping communities cope with shock and trauma following disasters.

Many of the volunteers who help us carry out this work have been affected by disasters themselves.

One of our aims is to strengthen the role of faith leaders and religious places in reducing the vulnerability of the people in facing the future disaster, so that the community can mitigate the risk of disaster, absorb the potential shock during disaster, and adapt to the changing situation after disaster.




## **Volunteers plant bamboo as a flood defence measure.**

With climate change increasing the risk of some extreme weather events, we are working to help communities reduce its impact. This includes planting bamboo on riverbanks to protect against flooding, mangroves in coastal areas to guard against erosion and trees on barren land to better retain water and improve soil fertility.



“The most important lesson that we learned from Islamic Relief is their technique in changing community culture and understanding. Before, we found it difficult to encourage society to understand the importance of preparing for future disasters. People tended to say ‘the disaster has not happened yet.’ But after the disaster in 2018 they realised the importance. Islamic Relief unites us from the community to government level. As a result, we have become stronger on every level.”

*Presley, Head of Disaster Management Agency, Palu City*



“We are planting trees that reduce the risk of flooding. Our village is vulnerable to floods. If it rains a lot, there will be soil erosion and all the community’s houses will be affected by the flood. This project is essential.”

*Fitriyani, Islamic Relief volunteer, Petobo*



“Islamic Relief has built the basic foundation of disaster management and mitigation here – the first of its kind in the province. We ran a simulation involving the local government, NGOs and emergency services. If we do simulations, we make people aware of what to do when a disaster happens.”

*Asrul, Head of Disaster Management Agency, Sigi District*

“These activities are so essential because we experienced how challenging the 2018 earthquake was. There were many victims at that time and our communities lacked information on how to evacuate themselves. We’ve come to solve this issue by explaining the evacuation sites. It’s not only for our community, all communities in the area can access these evacuation sites.”

*Lukman, Islamic Relief volunteer, Balaroa*



# WEATHERING HEALTH EMERGENCIES

An earthquake survivor receives a health check-up in Aceh.



Indonesia was among the countries most severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, with more than 6 million cases recorded and hospitals stretched to their limits. Islamic Relief supported health facilities by providing personal protective equipment (PPE) and meals to staff in Jakarta, and adapted our programmes to ensure we could continue serving communities around the country safely.

Some restrictions introduced to help curb the spread of the virus pushed vulnerable people even further into poverty. In Central Sulawesi and West Nusa Tenggara, Islamic Relief provided cash transfers and nutritious meals to more than 10,000 households still recovering from the 2018 disasters and tsunami, to help them through the pandemic.

We also distributed more than 100,000 facemasks to communities in Jakarta, Lombok and Central Sulawesi, along with hundreds of hand washing facilities and thousands of bottles of hand sanitiser. During the peak of the virus, we worked with local governments to conduct home visits and distribute booklets on the prevention of Covid-19.

In times of emergency, Islamic Relief works with partners to open medical clinics and deploy volunteer doctors to tend to the wounded. We open special centres to combat malnutrition in children and provide them with formula milk and food. During the 2006 polio outbreak in West Java, we campaigned for an end to open defecation and for handwashing in schools, and constructed water systems to provide communities with safe water.

# "I WILL PASS ON WHAT I'VE LEARNED"

Tanari uses an Islamic Relief hand washing station.



**Tanari, a 55-year-old shopkeeper, has been running his shop in Jakarta for almost 17 years. When the pandemic hit, Islamic Relief helped him operate his business as safely as possible.**

"During the pandemic, my store suffered a decline in customers. In fact, revenue declined more than 60 per cent," Tumari says.

"Alhamdulillah our family is healthy and following the health protocol taught to us... I finally understand how to use masks correctly, how to wash my hands properly and to keep a distance from others. There is also an interesting booklet which I can read in my free time to improve my knowledge of Covid-19.

"That information is very useful for me because my store is visited by many customers – I don't know where they've been before and whether they've already been exposed to the virus. Therefore, I have to be

very careful. If I get infected, my store will close and I won't have any income at all. I don't understand how to open an online shop so the only thing to do is apply safety knowledge.

"As a store owner, I have to maintain my personal health as well as my family's. I take multivitamins every day, keep a physical distance from customers and always use a face mask when serving customers. Now we have a hand washing station with soap from Islamic Relief, hopefully customers will also be willing to wash their hands prior to entering. I will also pass on the useful information I've learned so customers will be able to protect themselves from Covid-19."

# MEETING BASIC NEEDS

Indonesia has made huge strides in providing citizens with basic sanitation, but the large population, abundance of remote settlements and vulnerability to disasters have complicated these efforts.

Islamic Relief works to rebuild infrastructure in disaster-hit areas and establish safe water

supplies for remote communities. We have built water towers to provide villages with safe water for drinking and cooking as well as more than 200 wells and piping schemes. We have built more than 1,000 toilet blocks and run education programmes on the health risks of open defecation.



**Islamic Relief  
supplies water to  
displaced people after  
a disaster in 2018.**



**Ikhlas stands in front of a water tower built by Islamic Relief.**

**Ikhlas, 51, is the village chief and imam of Bangga village which Islamic Relief has supported to rebuild itself following an earthquake in 2018 and subsequent flash floods.**

"We are grateful for the aid from Islamic Relief. We have received qurbani meat, shelter and fresh water. In terms of fresh water, we have towers in two locations. This is really useful as we can use it for cooking, drinking and bathing. All people here can make use of the water.

"The people and the government maintain the tower together because it is very important to us. We take care of the machine and the tools.

"Thank you, Islamic Relief, for helping us since 2020. You provided us with shelter, fresh water, groceries and more. We cannot thank you enough."

# SHELTER AFTER EMERGENCIES

A family  
enjoy  
their new  
home in  
Bangga.



Providing emergency shelter is a top priority when disasters destroy families' homes. Islamic Relief distributes tents to those affected, and works to build temporary shelters as soon as possible. When rebuilding, we aim to make use of as much material from destroyed structures as possible. This means the reconstruction process can begin quickly and in a sustainable manner.

We recruit community members through cash-for-work programmes to help clear debris and build new temporary shelters and latrines. The groups include men and women who are trained and equipped with safety equipment to ensure safe working conditions. These programmes provide disaster-hit communities with an income when they need it most.

In 2019, in Bangga, we worked together with the community to build 105 shelters from dead coconut trees. The trees belonged to the community but were no longer productive after being damaged by flash floods, so the material was used to build the shelters.



**When Alam's home and village were destroyed in 2019, Islamic Relief helped him, and other community members, move into temporary housing.**

"We could still live in our house despite the minor damage from the earthquake. It could still be fixed. But about eight months later, a flash flood destroyed all the houses in our village.

"After the flash flood, I stayed in the shelter for about five or six months. Then, one of the teams from Islamic Relief visited me. I was one of the 116 family heads given a temporary home at that time.

"The house I was given is 4x6 metres, but we took materials from our previous home to build an extension to make the house bigger.

"I hope that Islamic Relief will continue to support us here. We are really thankful for your help, and I hope the community can keep working together with the Islamic Relief team."



**Alam in front of his home.**

# HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE

Indah is now  
attending  
university.



Indonesia is home to about 5 million orphaned children, who have lost either a father or both parents. Unfortunately, the country's vulnerability to extreme weather events means that number is always rising.

The Covid-19 pandemic created a new generation of orphans, with more than 25,000 children losing one or both of their primary caregivers to the virus, according to the United Nations.

Losing a parent can impact a child's development and put them at greater risk of neglect and exploitation. Orphaned children are also more likely to fall into poverty, while

alternative care givers – often extended family – can struggle financially and mentally.

Islamic Relief has supported more than 2,000 orphaned children in Indonesia through its orphan sponsorship programme and hopes to reach many more in the future. For some families, the money allows children to continue their education, while for others it can help a child access vital healthcare.

Graduates from the programme in Indonesia have gone on to a wide range of jobs including drone pilots, social workers and government employees.

# INSPIRED TO HELP OTHERS



Ali was orphaned when the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami hit his home in Aceh. The next year, he began receiving support and went on to graduate from college. Ali is very grateful to his sponsor and says the programme inspired him to help others. Now, he works for a humanitarian agency, where he is in charge of a similar programme.

"Being a field officer for a sponsorship programme reminds me of the assistance provided by Islamic Relief field officers in the past," he says. "It really motivated me to become someone that could help children and families in need. Thank you, Islamic Relief!"

# PARCELS OF JOY FOR RAMADAN AND EID

Families receive  
food parcels.



Every year during Ramadan Islamic Relief provides vulnerable households with food parcels to ensure those enduring hardship can break their fast. When it's time to celebrate Eid al-Adha, our qurbani programme delivers meat to families who would otherwise go without.

Wherever possible, we integrate these seasonal food distributions with other humanitarian and development programmes, ensuring we reach those most in need.

Our Ramadan and qurbani programmes provide food to over 26,000 people in Indonesia each year, helping them to observe and celebrate these special occasions, and easing their worries about where their next meal is coming from.

# EASING THE BURDEN



**Mariam, 72, is a widow who lives with her son's family in West Nusa Tenggara province.**

"Ramadan is a month of rahmah (mercy) and sharing. It means a lot to me. I prepare for the hereafter by doing prayers and good deeds," Mariam says.

Her son earns his living as a farmer, but struggles to make ends meet, with harvest coming only once a year. The situation became more difficult during the coronavirus pandemic, so Mariam sometimes skipped meals to help food last longer in the house.

Mariam began receiving food parcels from Islamic Relief during Ramadan, after hearing from a volunteer that she was eligible.

"It really helps a lot. I can ease my son's burden for a month at least. He does not have to think about how to feed me for a while and can save that money for other expenditures.

"I thank Islamic Relief. May Allah bless you all."

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Islamic Relief's vital work in Indonesia is made possible by the generosity of our supporters, donors and partners around the world. We warmly thank the many individuals, businesses and institutions for their invaluable support for our operations, which are a lifeline to so many vulnerable people.







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