

Muslim Hands

Ramadan Feedback 2009

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muslimhands.org



SWAT

The Crisis of a Generation



The long-term presence of Muslim Hands in Swat

facilitated the timely set-up of feeding centres when the recent crisis began unfolding in April. Alhamdulillah, these centres, such as the Khungi Camp at Timargarah, helped over 1,050 displaced families by providing them with essential food supplies.

Muslim Hands has since mobilised experienced emergency relief teams in

Swabi, Mardan and Jal-o-zai and redeployed ambulance units and medical crews from neighbouring regions to provide medical care.

In Swabi and Mardan, 6 Medical Relief Camps specialising in mother and infant health are now providing a vital service.

Over 250 young men and women volunteering with MH, including 23 doctors and medical staff, are active in the

region, working tirelessly to avert a major humanitarian disaster.

Living under such stressful conditions, children are at risk from suffering mental trauma and long term psychosocial problems. In order to offer some sense of normality to their lives, MH is running 9 Camp Schools for 1,200 young boys and girls. Alongside their schooling, they are provided a safe play area and nutritional meals daily.



muslimhands.org/swat
Further stories, picture galleries and video

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Helping Gaza's Children

“Now, following the crisis in Gaza, we (MH) are focussing on reconstruction and helping our traumatised children recover.”

— Sa'eed Saleh, MH Gaza Country Manager

The people of Gaza saw in the new year under a storm of bombs as Israeli air strikes poured destruction on this tiny strip of land, leaving 1,400 Palestinians dead and more than 5,000 injured.

MH has a permanent field office in Gaza City which immediately began distributing food, water and medical supplies to those trapped in the worst affected area — Jabaliyya.

With people forced to sleep out in the open, MH Gaza also

distributed thousands of winter blankets and Family Food Parcels.

Hospitals and clinics

With the overwhelming number of dead and injured, the most pressing need was for medical aid. MH Gaza supplied the largest, yet desperately overrun Al Shifa hospital with an intensive care unit, mobile critical care ambulance and surgical supplies.

A further five local hospitals and clinics throughout Gaza were

The Rafa Water Distribution Plant, costing £72,000, supplies clean water on tap to 2,300 family homes



supplied with life-saving medicine and medical equipment.

Rafa water project

MH Gaza has built a modern water distribution station to serve 15,000 residents across Dohairat — a densely populated area of Rafa. With access to water increasingly

uncertain, this will insha'Allah give families and farmers a reliable and safe water supply for their daily needs.

Psycho-social support for Gaza's children

MH has set up a support centre to help children, many of whom are traumatised from dealing with the exceptional stress of

living under heavily militarised conditions and blockade. The centre caters for parents and children, providing psychotherapy, group counselling sessions and a research centre. On top of this, support activities take place where children participate in trips to landmarks, zoos, parks and sports tournaments.



Crisis in DR Congo



Conflict in the North Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of Congo caused a humanitarian catastrophe as tens of thousands of civilians were driven from their homes to the countryside leaving them vulnerable and in danger.

MH UK and South Africa immediately provided refugee camps with urgently needed shelter, food and medical supplies, helping families in and around Goma, the provincial capital bordering Rwanda.

Ashraf uz Zaman
MH Manager
Bangladesh Office



Bangladesh under water

Bangladesh suffered massive damage last year as District Jessore — home to around 50,000 people — was submerged by flood waters.

“All of a sudden, we realised we were floating on water. The houses and what was inside were washed away..”

Saheb Ali, Villager

Highly experienced teams from MH Bangladesh sprung into immediate action and distributed staple food items, water-purifying tablets and oral saline solution to 1,200 affected residents of Manirampur and Keshabpur in Rajnoj High School Camp.

A further relief operation assisted 1,500 people across five villages in the Keshobpur district which was also badly affected.



Built to last:
the orphan
village offers
558 places to
high achieving
orphans

MH Orphans Village: Setting the Standard in Education

After three years of tireless commitment MH Pakistan has successfully opened the doors to the pioneering Orphans Village.

Spread across five acres, this £650,000 project ensures the best standard of education and care for the highest-achieving orphans from across Pakistan. The Orphans Village complex is

an innovative project, providing not only an exceptional standard of learning but also a tailor-made curriculum.

Completely self-contained, the complex holds 12 modern orphan homes, high-tech science and IT labs, a large school library, custom-built technical training centre, youth hostel, mosque, medical

dispensary and residence for the on-site orphan carers.

Another Orphans Village has been built in Indonesia and another is planned for Bangladesh in 2009/10



muslimhands.org/imp
This project was funded by IMP donors. Find out how you can get involved

Over £5 Million Spent on Education



Tariq Nasir
MH Senior
Projects
Manager, UK

Responding to emergencies may be what Muslim Hands is best known for — but our real passion lies in providing education, training and opportunity for children to realise their true potential.

Last year MH spent £5.2 million on educational programmes and now run over 320 schools in 26 countries.



muslimhands.org/schools
Read more about our educational projects

Sudan: As-Safa School

Imagine your classroom was nothing more than a simple mud hut where even light rain would mean school is shut down for the day. In rural Sudan, the 57 orphan girls at As-Safa Primary were regularly sent home early because of dilapidated school conditions.

Sourcing local materials and labour, MH Sudan began rapid reconstruction of the school, building six new classrooms, two offices, installing latrines and a veranda to provide shade for both students and teachers.

New kindergarten

MH also set up a kindergarten for the youngest children who would previously learn sitting under a tree. MH will continue to pay the salaries of teachers and keep the school equipped inshaAllah.



Training Afghanistan's Future



Skills For Life

Afghanistan regularly features in the news for conflict and poverty, though little is known about the day-to-day struggle for the average Afghan trying to support a household.

There are skills needed in every imaginable part of daily life. With a familiar and trusted presence in Kabul, MH Afghanistan set up a series of vocational training courses. Students at these free courses learn essential skills from technical training, electrical engineering, mobile phone repair, handicraft and tailoring.

The first class of students from this new centre have successfully graduated and are ready to enter the workforce and turn their skills into jobs.

MH has set up many vocational training centres throughout the country and has a long history of supporting communities in Afghanistan through water, food, medical and education projects.

A new start for Sohrab ud-Deen

Coming from a poor family in Kabul meant that Sohrab completed school with little hope of finding work or entering higher education. As the eldest of five children, Sohrab felt the financial pressures at home. Gaining a place at the Centre could therefore not have come at a better time. Working enthusiastically, Sohrab excelled in his Mobile Phone Repair class and passed with great success. Sohrab did so well he set up his own phone repair workshop.

His new workshop is constantly busy as Sohrab attracts customers from far and wide due to his highly skilled and honest approach to work.

Sohrab thrives in his role and now has a source of regular income for him and his family.



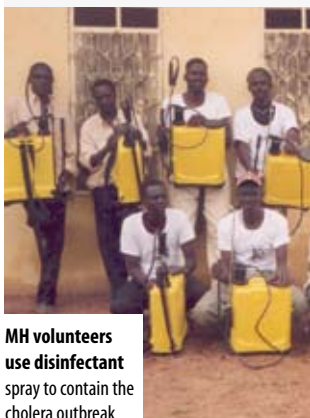
muslimhands.org/training
More on MH vocational training programmes

Cholera: Guinea Bissau

An outbreak of cholera in Guinea Bissau this year was a challenging public health issue that required efficient control and containment of the disease.

MH staff worked tirelessly to distribute thousands of litres of chlorine bleach to treat waterways and contaminated materials that had been in contact with patients — many of whom were young children.

Working with public health officials, thousands of litres of disinfectant were provided to families and institutions. The measures went a long way in containing the killer disease, providing a timely response in a time of crisis.



MH volunteers use disinfectant spray to contain the cholera outbreak

Mobile Eye Clinics



We may travel miles to sightsee, but others travel miles for sight itself

Mukhtar Bibi, aged 49, used to take care of her blind husband and father in rural Punjab. Her own vision was poor and could not be corrected by glasses. Having been forced to give up her livelihood, she was successfully treated by the MH mobile clinic to recover her vision.

Furthermore, the team were able to restore partial eyesight to both her husband and father.

Far-flung villages in Pakistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, China and Sudan were visited this year by MH mobile eye clinics, largely for the removal of cataracts, but also for other eye diseases affecting young and old alike.

MH Pakistan acquired the use of a private hospital to treat more than 500 patients with 40 operations taking place each day.

Correcting visual disorders in more than 400 patients, the mobile eye camp in Bangladesh targeted rural areas where even basic medical care is

scarce. In the village of Fultali, 70 patients underwent cataract removal, a further 300 were provided reading glasses and free medicine was distributed to fight eye infections.

Your donations have paved the way for hundreds of needy people to receive the eyesight that they could not afford to lose, yet could not afford to be treated for.

 muslimhands.org/sight
Give the gift of sight for only £15

Helping Poor Students in China

Luo Ruiying spent his teenage years selling scrap on the streets, struggling to save for university. With financial assistance from MH, Luo is now in his 2nd year of medicine.

In the impoverished Gansu Province MH is currently supporting 50 male and female students in 21 faculties.

Volunteers dig channels to drain stagnant water.
Ebo-Town, The Gambia



Fight Against Malaria Continues Across West Africa

With 90% of all malaria-related deaths in the world located in Sub-Saharan Africa, MH offices in Niger, Mali and The Gambia ran a multi-pronged programme of education and prevention against malaria.

In Niger, 150 families were provided with treated nets, repellent creams, disinfectant

sprays and anti-malarial drugs. In The Gambia, the villages of Ebo-Town and Manja-Kunda were assisted with channels dug to drain out stagnant water and even the construction of a small bridge for safe, dry passage in and out of the town.

In Samaya, Mali, 4000 residents were taught the use of medicated nets, targeted

cleaning of homes and surroundings and alerted to the danger of stagnant water. The entire village was treated with disinfectant spray, protecting against adult and child deaths from the disease.

 muslimhands.org/malaria
Join us in the fight against Malaria

Polio Awareness & Eradication



Freedom to move:
wheelchairs for the disabled

MH Pakistan's 3 day Polio Eradication Campaign brought policy makers and doctors together to warn the public of the dangers of Polio.

400 people left disabled by the disease received free check-

ups and minor surgery where needed.

In addition, wheelchairs were provided to 14 handicapped persons who could not afford these simple but life-changing living aids.

Money doesn't grow on trees, but trees do build livelihoods

Where agriculture is the prime source of income, trees provide a much-needed lifeline. Right from the roots — that bind the soil to protect against landslides and floods — to the fruit which provides a nourishing food source, trees are a valuable tool in the fight against poverty, climate change and soil erosion. When grown to maturity, saplings provide surplus fruit to sell on for income as well as employment in their maintenance.

Fruit tree saplings, including six thousand coconut trees, were distributed to impoverished communities in the Fultoli, Akigonj, Sylhet, Nabigonj and other districts in Bangladesh.

Recipients included mothers of young orphan children and those suffering from physical disabilities such as blindness and paralysis.

Student environmental awareness in Pakistan

In Pakistan, students at the MH School of Excellence in Islamabad took part in an environmental awareness campaign, aimed at encouraging the protection of greenery.

Students were given saplings to plant in their neighbourhood and help raise awareness of environmental issues.



Distributing coconut saplings: an income that grows naturally



Palestine Olive Tree Plantation

Towards a Greener Curriculum



Rownik Chaudhary
Country Desk Manager

Together with the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences, MH is developing an ecological curriculum for its schools around the world. Combining the experiences of local experts together with innovative

teaching materials, it fills the gap for schools in the less economically developed world. Until now, the subject was either absent or neglected with little attention paid to the sustainability of economic development.



muslimhands.org/green
From olive trees in Palestine to solar lanterns for Africa, give a green gift today

Safer Solar-lit Streets



Street Lighting Boosts Local Trade and Reduces Crime in Kodo, Niger

Paved roads, water pipes and drainage are all amenities we depend on every day, yet take for granted.

Until recently the village of Bangouroual, in Kodo, Niger was in darkness each evening without any street lighting. That is until MH erected solar street lights in-and-around the marketplace.

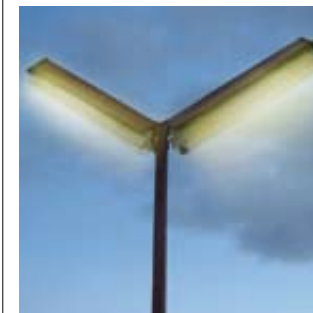
Residents and traders have noticed the many benefits from this modern yet basic provision, including lower crime rates, higher productivity and the

option for longer trading hours.

The solar street lights are reliable, have no running costs and are a self-contained solution to the lack of power.

“Shopkeepers, customers, barbers and others now have regular light to perform their activities in security”

Seini Saidou, Trader



Reading & playing: Life continues after the light fades in Bangouroual

Income Generation: Growing a Way Out of Poverty

“This (Cereal Aid) project is so vital for us and insha’Allah gives us the chance to be independent farmers and businessmen”

Mr Damba Bah, Farmer, Mali

Ask those in the developing world what it is they want most and one word persists: opportunity. The opportunity to work their own way out of poverty, the opportunity to provide for their families, the opportunity to give their children the chance of a brighter future.

MH Income Generation Schemes empower individuals and communities to become self-sufficient by providing job-

skills training for individuals to find employment.

Cereal Aid MALI

The concept behind this innovative new scheme is surprisingly simple. Muslim Hands provides millet, rice, maize and fertiliser to farmers in Mali to grow. At harvest time, a portion of the crop is returned to the cereal bank and passed

on to other farmers affording them the same opportunity.

This whole process grows with each harvest and over time assists more farming families allowing them to trade and sell their surplus produce.

Every step of the process is absolutely interest free and some of the farmers become so sufficient they even give their own zakah back to Muslim Hands for further projects.

work for the first time), but also are able to manage their time and jobs more efficiently.

Petty traders, students, teachers and community workers are amongst those that have benefitted from the project.



A family that can feed itself: the benefits of Cereal Aid include sustainable food and an income for farmers

Seeds of hope NIGER

As one of the poorest countries in the world, Niger relies heavily on subsistence farming and agriculture not only as a means of income, but for farmers to feed their families.

Women in the villages of Kanazi and Tillaberi were given the means to put their agricultural

expertise into action through the MH Tools and Seeds Distribution Project.

The project provides women with valuable tools and seeds to cultivate their land, ensuring their families have a regular supply of food and secure a small income by selling excess produce in the local market.



muslimhands.org/seeds

Plant the seeds of hope by giving farming tools and seeds to poor families

Indonesia Sheep Farming Project: For poor farmers, sometimes only a handful of cattle can be the difference between hope and poverty



Ongoing Income Generation Projects

Alhamdulillah Muslim Hands has helped establish a large and varied array of income generation projects ranging from ice cream vendors in India to honey production and packaging in Lebanon.

Ongoing projects include:

Smoked Fish

A women's smoked fish business in The Gambia set up in 2004.

Fishing Boats

Boats given to fishermen in Indonesia who lost their livelihood during the Boxing Day Tsunami.

Honey Making

Honey production kits given to communities in Lebanon have returned manyfold for these new bee keepers.

Milking Goats

Milking goats given to families in rural Sudan, Nepal and Indonesia mean they not only have milk, but also sell the remainder to generate an income.

Wheels Ahead in Nepal



Owning your own bicycle is much more than a matter of getting around in Nepal.

Our bicycle distribution to rural villages means individuals are not only able to get to and from work (in many cases, finding