# PARTNERSHIP

WHAT WE DO

#### 27

EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR PALESTINIANS IN GAZA

WHERE WE WORK 03

SLAM

IRUSA KIDS PAGE

GET INVOLVED

45



## THANK YOU

Thank you to the IRUSA **Board of Directors for their** dedication to the mission.

> Chairman - Ahmed Azam Khaled Albadawi Hussein Ata **Gregory Abdullah Mitchell** Esam Omeish

## INSIDE



04

08

16

20

24

29



#### WHERE WE WORK

Africa

Asia

Europe

Middle East

IRUSA Kids

& North Africa

Americas

WHAT WE DO

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

42

Education Food Security Health Livelihood Orphans & Children Refugees Water Women

Faith-based Giving

Emergencies

45

#### **GET INVOLVED**

Fundraisers	46
Volunteer Spotlights	48
Public Affairs, Research, & Advocacy	50
Challenges	54
Letter from Chairman of IRUSA Board of Directors	56

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Partnership, IRUSA's flagship magazine, highlights the impact our community has when we work together for a better world. In this issue, you'll read about efforts and programs from 2024.

#### Assalamu Alaikum. Peace Be Upon You.



In the midst of unprecedented violence and destruction across the world, Islamic Relief USA's (IRUSA) commitment to alleviate the suffering of those most vulnerable is unwavering. For over 30 years, IRUSA has responded to emergencies and disasters

without hesitation, and I am deeply honored and humbled to lead this incredible organization at a time of tremendous need and instability around the world.

IRUSA works to ensure that no need is left unmet, and to create sustainable programs that help communities thrive in an increasingly challenging environment. From our domestic programs, designed to ensure that our neighbors do not go hungry or lose access to shelter and basic necessities, to our international programs, that include emergency responses to natural- and man-made disasters and development projects that promote self-sufficiency, IRUSA is proud to implement comprehensive, innovative, and quality programming both at home and abroad.

With the support of our broad network of partners, we are able to deliver humanitarian aid to the most critical regions around the world. In Gaza, for example, we are witnessing an extraordinary level of suffering and devastation that has spread across the Middle East. The persistent and shocking level of destruction of homes, infrastructure and, most importantly, human life, is unconscionable. As the world is witnessing innocent civilians being massacred, injured, starved, displaced, and deprived of basic medical care, IRUSA is working around the clock with its partners to provide essential humanitarian aid. Despite the escalating crisis and the extreme restrictions imposed on the delivery of humanitarian assistance, we were able to distribute life-saving food, water, hygiene projects, psychosocial support programs, and medical supplies and services to the people of Gaza.

Through our trusted partners, we have mobilized medical teams that served thousands of patients, 60% of whom were children. We helped procure and delivered thousands of dollars in medical supplies to hospitals across Gaza. The ongoing needs in Gaza and beyond are rapidly growing. Although we cannot begin to calculate the level of investment needed for long-term recovery efforts in the region, our dedication to serving those in need remains unbreakable.

Throughout our work, we make sure to uphold the highest level of integrity, transparency, and excellence in this rapidly changing world. At IRUSA, we are truly blessed for the opportunity to serve humanity and help fulfill the fundamental requirements of Islam for the Muslim American community.

Ahred Shehata

Ahmed Shehata Chief Executive Officer Islamic Relief USA

## WHERE WEE WORK

Follow our journey of humanitarian programming and responses around the world.

IR-USA

# AFRICA

#### **COUNTRIES IRUSA WORKS IN**



ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM 6,332 SPONSORED ORPHANS

ADVENTURE CHALLENGE HOURS IN AFRICA

360+

**SEASONAL GIVING** 

**RAMADAN 93,789** ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED



**37 FOOD SECURITY** 

**PROJECTS BY SECTOR** 

#### 7 31 LIVELIHOOD

🍌 29 WASH\* 🔔

CLIMATE CHANGE

🌮 17 CASH / NFI\*\*

17 WOMENS' PROJECTS

15 EMERGENCIES

15 HEALTH & NUTRITION

OURBAN

ESTIMATED NUMBER

**OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED** 

5 EDUCATION

C 2 SHELTER

**OUR WORK ACROSS AFRICA** 

IRUSA worked in 23 African countries including Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte D'Ivoire, DRC, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Our work focuses on both immediate aid as well as long-term development including livelihood support, improved access to clean drinking water, orphan care, education, and healthcare.

In 2024, IRUSA donors helped support people in Africa through projects like orphan family support in Ethiopia; an emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) project in Zambia; and emergency support to people impacted by the conflict in Sudan.

Take a look at some of our work and read from the people you've helped serve across the region.

#### **CHILDREN IN NEED**

Over 50 million children in Africa have lost one or both parents. Some factors that contribute to the high number of orphans in Africa are poverty, HIV/ AIDs, conflict, drought, and economic hardship.

There is a clear orphan crisis in Africa that IRUSA is working to address through programs that support orphan families today and help them to earn a living tomorrow.

Sharmake's Story Somalia



Sharmake lives in a village in Somalia with his mother and six siblings. His father died a few years ago so he is considered an orphan.

After his father's death, Sharmake left school to support his family by farming on their land. But, due to a number of issues, including a lack of funds to acquire agricultural tools and seeds, no irrigation system, and non-functioning water sources, the family was unable to yield a sufficient amount of agricultural output. Fortunately, Sharmake's family was selected to benefit from a new IRUSA program in the region to support farmers.

Because of your donations, the family was supplied with a drip irrigation system to enhance agricultural output, rehabilitation of a shallow well on their property, and installation of a solar system (as opposed to a generator needing fuel), to improve water accessibility for farming. They also received vegetable seeds including sweet peppers, hot peppers, sweet melon, watermelon, and corn to enhance cash crop products and improve their income.

Sharmake stated that the farm's output has quadrupled as a result of the available solar energy, modern irrigation system, and provided seeds.

Our farm products have generated a significant amount of income, which has changed our standard of living over the last four months."

RUSA.ORG | 05

#### WATER, SANITATION, & HYGIENE (WASH)

One in three people in Africa face water scarcity, and that number is expected to grow. Access to safe and clean water sources in Africa is worsening due to climate change, urbanization, and population growth. IRUSA is focused on improving WASH access by the construction and rehabilitation of latrines, wells, and water access points for farmers.

#### Siyat's Story *Kenya*



Siyat is a goat farmer who lives in Garissa County in Kenya. His livestock enabled him to earn a living until he was unable to feed his goats because of drought in the region, a product of climate change.

We tried migrating the animals to different regions, but the drought was widespread. Providing for my family became a daily struggle. We had fewer meals as animals succumbed to the harsh conditions, and food prices in the market went up. Twenty-two of my goats succumbed to the drought, and I had to sell the remaining nine goats at a throwaway price because they were too weak to survive,"

IRUSA launched a program in Kenya to help communities adapt to climate change. The program has led to the construction of five boreholes and three dams to increase access to clean water. Farmers also received droughtresistant seeds, tools, and training to strengthen their capacity in agricultural practices, enhancing agricultural and livestock productivity, and to improve socio-economic resilience.

Siyat and 239 other livestock farmers were equipped with a diverse array of farming skills,

06 | PARTNERSHIP

agronomic practices, and climate-smart technologies. The training enabled them to transition from solely relying on raising livestock to embracing agriculture as a viable alternative for sustenance and income generation.

"The skills learned have been invaluable. I used my proceeds from selling the weak goats and purchased about two acres of land. I now use the skills learned to plant corn, beans, watermelons, tomatoes, and bananas. I intend to supplement livestock farming with agricultural farming to expand my livelihood sources," Siyat recounts, highlighting the tangible impact of the training on his life and community.

#### LIVELIHOOD

Africa has the highest extreme poverty rates globally. Around 429 million people on the continent are living below the extreme poverty line of \$2.15 a day. With a population of approximately 1.4 billion inhabitants, roughly one-third of Africa's population lives in extreme poverty. IRUSA is working to implement programs that focus on skills development that can support livelihood and income-generation efforts for a lifetime.

#### Abdiaziz's Story

#### 💡 Kenya



Abdiaziz, a livestock farmer from Sabena, has 17 children, and his 61-livestock herd represents not just his wealth but survival. "I have to take care of my animals to sustain my family's source of income," he shared.

Thanks to IRUSA donors, three cattle crushes were constructed in the region. A cattle crush is a strongly built stall or cage that holds big and heavy animals like cattle so that workers can work with them. The cattle crushes promise efficient and effective livestock handling, disease control, and management.

Abdiaziz and other livestock farmers no longer need

to grapple with makeshift solutions like thorn fences to restrain their animals for vaccination. Instead, the facilities provide a safe and controlled environment for livestock health interventions, playing a pivotal role in mitigating livestock morbidity during these challenging times.

The impact of this initiative reverberates across Garissa County. During a recent livestock health campaign organized by the Garissa County Livestock Department, approximately 8,000 animals belonging to 200 livestock keepers were vaccinated at one of the program's cattle crushes in Gurufa. This marked a significant milestone in bolstering the health and resilience of the local livestock population.

#### **EMERGENCIES**

When an emergency takes place in an African nation, it is most often either a public health emergency triggered by climate change or a conflict-related disaster. The ongoing conflict in Sudan has forced 12 million people to flee their homes.

IRUSA is working in Sudan to support those who have been displaced, as well as in neighboring countries affected by the conflict.

So far, we have provided food assistance to 327,991 people; cash assistance to 36,230 people; health and nutrition services to 46,225 people; medicines, fuel for generators, and for patients to 20,851 people; agricultural seeds to 100,000 farmers; water storage kits to 4,890 people; hygiene training and soap to 7,663 people; hygiene kits to 3,369 people; non-food items to 1,387 people; shelter assistance to 2,425 people; dignity kits to 4,174 people; recreational items for 1,375 children, women, and girls; and psychosocial support for 2,552 people.



#### THANK YOU!

#### Your donation goes a long way.

With your support, IRUSA is able to help change the lives of our brothers and sisters across Africa. To learn more about your impact, visit irusa.org/africa.

#### EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR SUDANESE REFUGEES IN CHAD

#### 🦰 Chad

Ongoing clashes between armed groups have been driving mass displacement in Sudan, and millions of refugee returnees have fled Sudan, with many seeking protections in Chad. Women and children represent some 90% of those seeking protection in Chad, with 77% of women arriving in the country alone with children. National agencies anticipate that these figures will rise to over 2.7 million displaced outside Sudan in 2024, with Chad expected to see some of the highest figures of refugees.

IRUSA is improving access to safe, livable conditions for 27,915 new Sudanese refugees (5,583 families) in Chad. IRUSA will support approximately half of the refugee populations at a site in the Ouaddai province and a site in the Sila province. Interventions will include:

Distribution of care relief kits to 2,957 families (14,785 individuals) consisting of a solar lamp, sleeping mats, mattresses, mosquito nets, a kitchen set, jerrycans, soap, and other household items.

Access to improved shelter conditions and individual shelters for 2,626 families (13,120 individuals).





#### 25 57,346 23 EVENTS ESTIMATED NUMBER CITIES OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

**SEASONAL GIVING** 

RAMADAN 123,783

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

3785

80,000

ESTIMATED NUMBER

**OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED** 

## <u>37,858</u>

**TURKEY DISTRIBUTION** 

20.000

TURKEYS

DISTRIBUTED

#### **VOLUNTEER HOURS IN THE AMERICAS**

Volunteer hours include: national deployments, US meal packs, volunteer support for fundraising efforts and events, aid distributions, Ramadan food box projects, skill-based volunteers and interns, and more.



#### **OUR WORK ACROSS THE UNITED STATES**

Racial inequity and systemic racism, homelessness, divisive politics, poverty, the effects of climate change – just a few issues Americans (and people around the world) face on a daily basis. And now, food and gas prices continue to soar, exacerbating an already difficult circumstance for families across the country: More than 37 million Americans live in poverty – that's nearly 12% of the population of one of "the richest countries in the world." And 65% of those are working but cannot break the cycle of poverty that chains them.

Islam teaches us that charity starts at home, and that's why IRUSA has been dedicated to supporting humanitarian programs for our neighbors in need. In 2024, IRUSA donors helped support nearly 80 projects across 17 states and the District of Columbia, in areas like food security, community development, healthcare, and refugee resettlement.

Take a look at some of our work and read from the people you've helped serve across the country.

### **FOOD SECURITY**

Around 37 million Americans suffer from food insecurity - the same as those who are living in poverty. But it is astounding that the US, considered a world superpower, has not solved the food crisis for its own citizens. Rising food prices, climate-affected harvests, reductions in some federal and local government food support for low-income families, food deserts across urban and rural neighborhoods: These are some just some of the reasons so many Americans do not have proper access to foods, let alone healthy foods.

#### IRUSA'S LARGEST PROGRAM

**IS FOOD AID,** and, through the support of generous donors, it works year-round to bring food to families in need right here in the US. By the time of this writing in 2024, nearly 200,000 people had received

food aid through IRUSA programming including Ramadan food box distributions; Qurbani/Udhiyah halal meat provisions; its portion of the USDA Summer Food effort for low-income children; supported food pantries; and hot meals distributed during Ramadan.



8 PSS/PROTECTION

**QURBANI** 

103,350

ESTIMATED NUMBER

**OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED** 

1 WASH\*

That program - Hot Meals - is a staple of IRUSA's US food aid efforts, and has taken place across several states with the support of many community partners since its inception in 2021, to help alleviate food insecurity in urban areas. This year, the program took its focus to Detroit, MI, where IRUSA worked with the Islamic Center of Detroit (ICD) to provide 1,500 meals each week to lowincome neighbors and to those suffering from homelessness. During Ramadan 2024, the program swelled for a special campaign throughout New York, where five partners across five boroughs distributed hot meals to those in need.

Through IRUSA's support, ICD also runs an ongoing food pantry, where those in need can come weekly to pick out their own food items and pantry staples.



One person who received support through the pantry told us:

**6** Attending the weekly ICD food pantry was a turning point for me and my family. As a single parent struggling to make ends meet, putting food on the table was a constant source of stress. But thanks to the generosity of the volunteers and donors, I no longer have to worry about where our next meal will come from."

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

As poverty has gripped so many Amerians across the country, IRUSA works with local organizations to help build and implement programming designed to help individuals

10 PARTNERSHI

break through systemic and circumstantial burdens, and boost them toward sustainable success.

In 2024, IRUSA provided support to more than 15 different community groups across the country, serving nearly 50,000 people with programs ranging from accessibility for deaf Muslims to family success planning; environmental education to eviction prevention; mental health support to mentorship programs for highrisk youth; unity programs to work through community problems; even an aeronautics camp to inspire underrepresented

youth interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to safety support for survivors of domestic violence.

The Texas Muslim Women's Foundation is one of the organizations IRUSA supports in its mission to help families affected by domestic violence. Chief Executive Officer, Mona Kafee says the IRUSA grant "...has greatly benefited our community by markedly improving our ability to deliver essential services, providing services to families experiencing domestic abuse and support to the most vulnerable families. It allows us to broaden our outreach programs, upgrade infrastructure, and provide additional resources to those

in need. This support enhances community engagement and resilience, particularly empowering women and their families to prosper. Ultimately, the grant bolsters our collective strength to tackle challenges and foster a more vibrant, interconnected community." She adds,

[IRUSA's mission] is centered on supporting women and their families, recognizing that empowering women is crucial to building resilient communities. Through these investments, IRUSA aims to create lasting positive change and contribute to a world where poverty is no longer a barrier to opportunity."



#### **HEALTHCARE**

in need, and whose mission it is to create health equity by providing continuity of care to the underserved community in its region. Executive Director, Faisal Sayed, says: "[Our]... collaboration with IRUSA is instrumental in advancing our mission to provide health and social services to underserved populations in northeast Florida. It enhances our capacity to screenings and services to lowdeliver vital services, empowers individuals, and fosters a stronger, more resilient community. We are deeply grateful for this collaboration and remain committed to across 13 states were maximizing its impact for the

benefit of those we serve."

Nearly 26 million Americans

are without health insurance,

and the majority of them do

not have access to adequate

healthcare. Even those with

health insurance can suffer

from an inability to get proper

health support and coverage.

IRUSA works with community

groups to provide affordable

income families and for those

In 2024, more than

30.000 Americans

– and often FREE – health

living in homelessness.

served through

health clinic

programming.

**IRUSA-supported** 

One of these programs is

through Muslim American

Social Services (MASS) in

to provide free social and

medical services to anyone

Jacksonville, FL, which aims

Health screenings and consultations are also often part of IRUSA's Day of Dignity events, which take place each summer and fall. In 2024, 25 events brought access to services like these health screenings to neighbors in need across the country, as well as food aid and nutritious hot meals.

clothing provisions, resume and job-interviewing training, hygiene support, including hair cuts, entertainment, and so much more.

For more information irusa.org/ day-of-dignity.





## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

There are more than 100,000 refugees who have been resettled in the US in 2024, the same year IRUSA entered its second year of working to help resettle incoming refugee families in partnership with the International Rescue Committee.

Through this essential program, refugees arriving into the country receive support within their new communities, including:

Provisions of culturally-appropriate

food and clothing, as well as essential household items,

available when they arrive and

the necessary support to help

them procure these

on their own

 $\mathbf{O}$ 

Support in finding safe and suitable

A meet and greet when they arrive at the airport and transportation to their new dwellings

Training on financial managing their finances



Guidance on accessing and support with enrollment for social services including legal assistance, public benefit, health insurance, and other services based on their needs

12 PARTNERSHIP

Access to proper health care

**IRUSA REFUGEE** RESETTLEMENT

Language lessons to provide them the opportunity to sufficiently communicate and engage and thrive in their new environment

life in the US and in

EN

Assistance with resume preparation, and finding a job that matches their skills and aspirations, supporting their path to self-sufficiency

School enrollment for continue to build their



Islamic Relief USA, through six grantee community organizations, is helping nearly 1,052 refugees in 2024 across four states with services like these and more.

One of these organizations is Rohingya Cultural Center (RCC) in Chicago, IL, which provides services like case management, health support, language



support, citizenship classes, academic support, and more for Rohingya refugees resettling in the area. Assistant Director, Sarah Pajeau notes, "the Rohingya refugee community often slips through the cracks due to unique barriers and vulnerabilities ... IRUSA's support has allowed us to continue our very important and much-needed work.



IRUSA understands the challenges our Rohingya community faces, [and] recognizes the importance of RCC employing Rohingya to support Rohingya, which ensures language accessibility, cultural understanding/ competency, and traumainformed care."

#### **MOHAMMAD'S STORY 9** Florida

are all registered in school.

Mohammad is a Syrian refugee that arrived in Florida from the Al-Azrag refugee camp in Jordan, in early 2024. Living in the Al-Azrag refugee camp was hard for Mohammad, his wife, and their five children. They had little food, little work, and their children had no access to education in the camp.

When Mohammad and his family arrived, IRUSA welcomed them at the airport and took them to their home that was fully furnished.

"We entered the home, and right when we entered the home it was perfect. We felt so happy. We saw a Qur'an and prayer rug. We felt really at peace and were really happy."



better than what was provided for us. My dream is security, and my kids. My biggest dream is for my kids to study for higher degrees and to become something."

n addition to sustainable programming, IRUSA works quickly to provide urgent and immediate aid and support to survivors of emergencies. Here are some of the recent emergency interventions IRUSA's Disaster Management Team (DMT) and Blueshirt volunteers have responded to.

#### HURRICANE BERYL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Hurricane Beryl made landfall in Texas as a Category 1 storm in July, dumping heavy rain and causing destruction in its path. Unfortunately, at least three people were killed. Immediately following the storm, nearly three million people were without power, with only about half having their power restored. IRUSA mobilized staff and volunteers to help provide families in need with food, water, and emergency flood buckets.



#### PUERTO RICO PREPAREDNESS BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM

As part of its long-term recovery efforts, IRUSA's DMT staff and volunteers returned to Anasco, Puerto Rico, in June to support hurricane survivors with its annual backpack and hot meals distribution. More than 500 backpacks and hot meals were provided, alongside 500 flood buckets and flood clean-up supplies to help families prepare for the 2024 hurricane season.



#### **HOUSTON STORM RESPONSE**

After severe storms ripped through the Houston, TX, area in May, IRUSA's DMT staff and volunteers, working with the American Red Cross, moved quickly to conduct disaster assessments for hundreds of affected families. The assessments are an essential first step in the response and recovery process as they help survivors receive the aid that they need.



#### LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR HURRICANE MARIA SURVIVORS IN UTUADO

FROM

From March through July in 2024, IRUSA's DMT supported a build-out of a 3,000 gallon-water storage tank to support the communities of Utuado, Puerto Rico, who are still recovering from 2017's Hurricane Maria. The storage tank ensures quick, easy, and regular access to clean water in case another disaster impacts infrastructure. IRUSA donors had already supported the construction of a water well in the community after the storm, as many of the families were left without clean water access and electricity for more than a year.



#### PUERTO RICO FLOOD SHELVES BUILD OUT

In April, IRUSA's DMT staff and volunteers helped build flood shelves for low-income families in Barrio Playa in Anasco, Puerto Rico. The shelves are designed to elevate personal property in homes that have been impacted by floods or at-risk of impact. This helps locals protect personal items in case of future floods, and, in turn, help them recover more quickly after a disaster.



#### HURRICANE HELENE AND HURRICANE MILTON RESPONSE

On September 26, Hurricane Helene made landfall on Florida's Gulf Coast. The Category 4 hurricane, with wind speeds of 140 mph, left a path of destruction over 500 miles long. Shortly after on October 9, Hurricane Milton made landfall on Florida's Gulf Coast as a Category 3 storm, further exacerbating the situation in the area. IRUSA launched an emergency response to provide support and relief to individuals, and our DMT was involved in the assessment process at the national level through FEMA.



#### COLOMBIA FLOODS EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In early November, Colombia declared a State of Emergency amid torrential rains and extreme weather. The rains have caused widespread flooding, landslides, and infrastructure damage in the country due which has displaced more than 90,000 people. IRUSA's DMT conducted a needs assessment delivered life-saving food aid.



#### **COUNTRIES IRUSA WORKS IN**



ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM 8,691 SPONSORED ORPHANS

16 PARTNERSHIP

WINTER AID **3,987** ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

ADVENTURE CHALLENGE HOURS IN ASIA

#### SEASONAL GIVING

**RAMADAN 107,349** ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

## 1,503,257

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

- PROJECTS BY SECTOR 24 FOOD SECURITY 14 LIVELIHOOD 12 CLIMATE CHANGE 11 WASH\* 9 SHELTER 6 EMERGENCIES 5 EDUCATION
- 4 HEALTH & NUTRITION
- 4 WOMENS' PROJECTS

OURBANI

ESTIMATED NUMBER

**OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED** 

### OUR WORK ACROSSASIA

Islamic Relief USA is dedicated to helping those in Asia, and is working tirelessly to address issues such as food insecurity, climate change, education, and more. In 2024 alone, IRUSA helped more than 1.5 million people in Asia, across Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

Take a look at some of our work in Asia and read accounts from people you've helped serve across the region.

#### EDUCATION

More than 75% of the world's 781 million illiterate adults are found in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Nearly 26% of South Asians are illiterate, and a lot of that is due to cultural barriers that prevent girls from going to school. While girls across Afghanistan have limited access to education under the current leadership, IRUSA supports a Community-Based Education (CBE) program, an educational approach designed for children who are unable to attend formal schools.



#### Hajira's Story *Afghanistan*

Hajira is an 18-year-old who was never able to attend school, something she always dreamed of. Even after her family moved out of Taliban controlled areas, her brother did not give her permission to go to school. As the only unmarried female, she needed to stay home to take care of their sick mother.

I totally lost myself and [had] a fully broken heart with the current situation."



IRUSA was able to convince Hajira's brother to let her attend IRUSA's education program. "I [am] deeply thankful and appreciative [of] my teacher and IRUSA for providing such opportunities to internally displaced persons, vulnerable families, orphans, and refugees to study and enroll in schools for further education."

Now, Hajira is enrolled in school and dreams of furthering her education. "It's one of my life goals to become a doctor and to treat sick people. [I] even [hope to] become an employee of this organization [and] to take part in real services [for] vulnerable people and [help] them [have] a prosperous future, insha'Allah."

IRUSA.ORG | 17

#### **CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

South Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change, and faces rising sea levels, heat waves, floods, droughts, and increasingly intense and unpredictable weather events. Around 750 million people have been affected by at least one natural disaster in the region, yet countries like Pakistan are only responsible for less than 1% of the global emissions that are causing climate change.

#### Abdul Hameed's Story Pakistan



#### Working on an agricultural farm, Abdul Hameed felt hopeless due to the little money he earns to support his wife and five children. He possessed the knowledge and land to practice tunnel farming – a method of growing crops in semi-closed, greenhouse-like structures – but due to the lack of money and resources, he could not start.

Islamic Relief USA, through our Action For Drought Adaptive Practices and Transformation [ADAPT] program, provided a green tunnel to Abdul Hameed so he can maintain his own drought resistant farm.

For me, this project changed my life because it helped me to utilize such a tunnel that I was waiting for. Thanks to this support I have achieved my goals and it will mark the beginning of a new positive chapter in my life. I am thankful to IRUSA and donors for this magnificent support and aid. I pray that this process of mobilization and endless support will continue."

#### LIVELIHOOD

The main source of employment in South Asia is agriculture, and in countries like Nepal, more than 80% of the population live in rural areas and depend on farming for their livelihood. With the region experiencing harsh weather conditions, many are struggling to survive off their land.

#### Laxmi's Story

Trying to support her husband and three children, Laxmi found herself working on a farm to earn a living wage. Unfortunately, she was having trouble due to the harsh conditions on the land.

Thanks to IRUSA, Laxmi received training in climate-adapted farming, which helped her tremendously. She also received climate-adapted rice seeds, spray tanks, plastic drums, vegetable seeds, vitamins, and fertilizers.

I am very happy now that I have got agricultural tools and training. I am growing vegetables and giving a good education to my two sons and daughter."



Now, Laxmi is leading a group of 30 farmers, and regularly organizes monthly meetings to help her team. Her story reflects the positive impact of the project turning challenges into opportunities for livelihood improvement.



#### EMERGENCIES

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing our world today and, in many countries, it is the most vulnerable communities that are bearing the brunt of its negative impacts.

Thanks to your donations, IRUSA is working to provide emergency relief to our brothers and sisters across Asia who are the most vulnerable to climate disasters.

#### EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR FLOOD VICTIMS IN BANGLADESH AND AFGHANISTAN

🦰 Bangladesh



Torrential monsoon rains that began in early August triggered widespread flooding across several districts in northern and northeastern regions of Bangladesh. The flash floods affected 5.7 million people, leaving 1.2 million people displaced, numerous villages submerged, and critical infrastructure damaged. The damage also included the death of 39,000 cattle livestock, death of 2.1 million poultry, and 785,000 acres of land flooded.

#### THANK YOU!

Your donation goes a long way.

With your support, IRUSA is able to help change the lives of our brothers and sisters across Asia. To learn more about your impact, visit irusa.org/asia.



IRUSA responded immediately by providing essential food supplies to 5,000 of the most vulnerable families. In addition, IRUSA also provided fodder for livestock, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance [MPCA], and hygiene kits.

🨌 Afghanistan 🛛



On Sunday, May 10, flash floods caused by heavy rains devastated villages in northern Afghanistan, killing 315 people and injuring more than 1,600. Over 21,000 people (3,000 families) were affected, and thousands of homes were destroyed or damaged. Roads and agricultural land were also destroyed by the floods, which struck after days of torrential rain.

IRUSA responded by distributing MPCA, food items, and non-food items to the most vulnerable flood-affected people.



scan here

IRUSA.ORG | 19

# EUROPE



WINTER AID 2,075 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM 1,733

SPONSORED ORPHANS

#### **SEASONAL GIVING**

RAMADAN 6,042 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

#### **PROJECTS BY SECTOR**

**7** FOOD SECURITY



**4** CAPACITY BUILDING

- 2 HEALTH & NUTRITION
- 🍐 🙎 WASH
- **1** EMERGENCIES
- **1** EDUCATION
- 🛷 1 CASH / NÉI

### **OUR WORK ACROSS EUROPE**

IRUSA has been in Europe since 1993, when we provided vital emergency aid such as food, water, and shelter in Bosnia. Now, more than 30 years later, IRUSA is dedicated to addressing issues such as food insecurity, shelter, and health across Albania, Bosnia, Greece, Kosovo, and North Macedonia.

> Take a look at some of our work in Europe and read accounts from people you've helped serve across the region.

#### HEALTH

i Hercegovina

At IRUSA, we work hard to empower communities, especially for those that are often overlooked. There are over 33 million disabled people across Eastern Europe, and many parts of the region do not have the medical infrastructures to support them. IRUSA is committed to building these infrastructures.



#### Sueda's Story Albania

Sueda is a healthcare professional working in a district that provides healthcare services for thousands of people. The population is in great need of support of additional medical staff to carry out medical visits for patients in remote areas. Thanks to IRUSA, the district has been equipped with mobile medical vehicles to carry out medical visits at the homes of residents in remote areas, a significant number of medical supplies and emergency drugs, and medical bags.

Now, Sueda is able to provide medical care to those in remote parts of the district.

Thanks to IRUSA, the healthcare system is now thriving.

We are grateful for [IRUSA]. It is such a good opportunity that together we will undertake such a major initiative, knowing that the health and well-being of our people for us are primary."

117,043 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

QURBANI

ESTIMATED NUMBER

**OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED** 

.981

IRUSA.ORG | 21

#### **FOOD SECURITY**

In Europe and Central Asia, 111.1 million people are considered food insecure, and 25 million people cannot maintain healthy diets. When someone is severely food insecure, they have gone a day or more without eating.

IRUSA's largest humanitarian sector is food aid, and we are working hard to transform agrifood systems around the world to adequately address food insecurity.

#### **Besnik's Story**

#### 9 Kosovo



Besnik is father who cares for his family of six through social assistance. He is unable to work due to poor economic conditions, and relies on the generosity of IRUSA donors for food. He is a regular recipient of fresh fruits and vegetables, and also receives seasonal items such as food boxes and Ourbani meat.

Through the Long-term Path to Agriculture Development project, Besnik received 37 chickens and three turkeys. Besnik hopes to create sustainable income and financial stability by selling them.

Besnik and his family are happier than ever, and wholeheartedly thank you all for your contributions and continuous support.

### THANK YOU!

Your donation goes a long way.

With your support, IRUSA is able to help change the lives of our brothers and sisters across Europe. To learn more about your impact, visit irusa.org/europe.

#### WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)



One of the United Nations six target goals for North Macedonia is to achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls by 2030. As of 2024, 88% of North Macedonians lack safely managed sanitation services.

At IRUSA, we are committed to improving the lives of those in North Macedonia by providing the equipment needed for sanitation services through our Integrated Approach Towards Sustainable Development project.

#### **Ridvan's story** \varTheta North Macedonia

In a municipality in North Macedonia, Ridvan Ibrahimi is the mayor who is actively trying to improve the living conditions of the people in the region. Proper waste management services were not implemented because the municipality did not have the resources.

IRUSA provided several large bin lorries (garbage trucks) as well as excavators to help clean up the region and provide ongoing sanitation services. Prior, the entire region relied on one small lorry that did not always function properly.

Thanks to your donations, Ridvan states that waste is being collected more efficiently, and the municipality is cleaner.

scan here

## **READY TO JOIN TEAM BLUE?**



Islamic Relief USA is looking for dedicated professionals to join our mission-driven team. We offer rewarding career opportunities in various fields, from humanitarian aid to fundraising, communications, and more.

#### WHY CHOOSE IRUSA?



**EMPLOYER-PAID BASIC** 

LIFE INSURANCE

COVERAGE

6)

PAID

PARENTAL

**IFAVF** 

AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS

EST.

SLAMIC



EG FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT (FSA)

401K



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TUITION REIMBURSEMENT **EMPLOYER-PAID** LONG-TERM DISABILITY COVERAGE



PAID VACATION, SICK DAYS, ALL FEDERAL HOLIDAYS, AND DAYS **OFF FOR EID HOLIDAYS** 

**APPLY TODAY! IRUSA.ORG/CAREERS** 





EF

22 | PARTNERSHIP

## MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

#### **COUNTRIES IRUSA WORKS IN**



WINTER AID 62,445 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

ADVENTURE CHALLENGE HOURS IN MENA

#### **SEASONAL GIVING**

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED



**PROJECTS BY SECTOR** 

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED



ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED



IRUSA has had a presence in the Middle East since 1997. Not only have we been able to provide immediate and long-term aid to those in desperate need, but we've also helped bring compassion, comfort, and hope back into the hearts of families across the region. Now, over 30 years later, IRUSA continues to deliver life-saving aid across nine Middle Eastern and North African countries including Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Türkiye, and Yemen.

In 2024, IRUSA donors helped support projects in the Middle East through projects like food security in Yemen; emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects in Lebanon and Palestine; and Ramadan food boxes in Morocco.

There are over 61 million children living in

countries affected by political instability in

the Middle East out of a total population of nearly 166 million. That means for one in

every third child, violence has become the

For years now, experts have warned against

specifically children. Now, more than ever, it's

become increasingly important to provide as

much relief as we can in their great time of need. Thanks to your support, we're able to

Rahaf is a young girl, living in a camp in Deir

al-Balah, Gaza. Her experience is like that of any child living through violence. In the first few

days, she shared she's never felt fear or panic

like this before. Her and her siblings clung by

their parents' side as they listened to the sound

help make this possible.

**Rahaf's Story** 

**Palestine** 

the unprecedented levels of psychological trauma present in the Palestinian population,

new normal.

Take a look at some of our work and read from the people you've helped serve across the region.

#### **CHILDREN IN NEED**

of missiles. Fire from one of the missiles even managed to creep its way into their home. The family was eventually forced to flee to Rafah.



Thanks to donors like you, Rahaf was able to find healing through joining a mind-body skills group.

### I found comfort."

Eventually, she learned new ways to cope with her trauma and was even able to do things on her own, without feeling the need to cling to her mother.

#### HEALTH

The attack on the health system in Palestine has been particularly devastating - less than half of Gaza's hospitals are partially functional, facing challenges with the shortage of medical staff and lack of essential medical supplies. Experts have shared that more people will die of disease if we're not able to put the health system back together and provide people with the basics of life. Thanks to you, we've been able to work with local partners to provide proper healthcare to our brothers and sisters in need.



**Dalia's Story Palestine** 

Dalia\* is a woman currently pregnant with her fourth child. In her previous pregnancies, Dalia never took prenatal vitamins or supplements due to cost. However, during this pregnancy, Dalia has experienced muscle and joint pain, exhaustion, hair loss and nail breakage, weakness in appetite, and other symptoms that have interfered with her day-to-day activities.

Donors like you helped make it possible for Dalia to receive critical supplements, free of charge. After she started taking the prenatal vitamins regularly, she felt a significant improvement in her health.

**6** My hair has become healthier, and I'm able to fulfill my responsibilities as a mother with more energy. My appetite has [also] improved and my blood test results are excellent compared to the beginning of the pregnancy," Dalia shared.

\*In this report, pseudonyms have been used to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the individuals mentioned, ensuring their anonymity while preserving the integrity of the information presented.

#### LIVELIHOOD

Refugees in Jordan lack access to adequate and consistent work, making it difficult for them to support their families. Thanks to your support, IRUSA worked to promote the economic empowerment and social inclusion of vulnerable refugees through increased access to livelihood opportunities including professional development services, entrepreneurial training, and financial assistance.



#### Fawzia's Story ♀Jordan

Fawzia is an Iragi refugee living in Jordan with her five children. Her and her family share a humble. one-bedroom home, and due to their status as refugees, she and her elder son are unable to find work. Her main source of income is humanitarian aid. To make matters worse, she suffers from both back pain and a leg injury but is unable to afford proper healthcare.

When asked about benefiting from IRUSA's Economic Empowerment and Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Refugees project, she shared,

**6** I am very happy to receive the assistance, the feeling I have when I'm waiting [to receive] it every month is like [waiting] for a holiday."





**EMERGENCIES** 

Decades of political instability have destroyed the communities that once thrived in the Middle East. Millions of people have been displaced from their homes and are in need of humanitarian assistance, women and children among those most affected. Three of the nine countries IRUSA works in - Palestine, Syria, and Yemen – have suffered greatly and are among the poorest nations in the region. With your support, we're helping to rebuild the Middle East and North Africa.

#### **EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR PALESTINE AND SYRIA**



#### 💛 Palestine

The ongoing escalation of violence in Palestine has killed at least **45,000**, with some reports estimating the numbers are in the hundreds of thousands, including men, women, and children, with thousands more deemed injured or missing.

IRUSA has been working with our partners on the ground, some of which have been in Palestine for decades, to redirect all funds to fully support our ongoing emergency efforts. While issues related to the delivery of humanitarian aid persist, IRUSA has successfully distributed food, water, medicine and medical supplies, winter aid, and other necessities.

In response to the United Nations officials warnings of impending famine, IRUSA has distributed food aid, including fresh food parcels and hot meals, to over 700,000 internally displaced people.

#### THANK YOU!

#### Your donation goes a long way.

Your donation goes a long way. With your support, IRUSA is able to help change the lives of our brothers and sisters across the Middle East. To learn more about our impact, visit irusa.org/middle-east.

When Gaza still had partially functioning hospitals, IRUSA helped ease their challenges by providing medical supplies to three hospitals, and providing access to mobile clinics and other medical care for nearly 500,000 people.

On top of everything else, we're working with an organization focused on mental health to provide immediate trauma response for over **100,000** people. We've also been able to distribute essential non-food items including bedding and winter clothing to more than 39,000 people.

IRUSA strongly supports a ceasefire and the establishment of a permanent humanitarian corridor, which would allow the safe transit of humanitarian aid.

#### **Svria**

December 8 marked the fall of the Assad regime, further exasperating the decadelong humanitarian crisis in Syria. IRUSA is responding by providing cash assistance and basic winter needs to mitigate the effects of weather conditions on conflict-affected people in northwest Syria. IRUSA also implemented a comprehensive sponsorship program that includes monthly sponsorship, healthcare check-ups, psychosocial support (PSS) activities, livelihood support for caregivers, and educational support activities.



## CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE





Protect your family with a shariah-compliant estate plan with IRUSA. Create a will, divide your estate according to sharia ruling, and add in a sadaqah jariyah. **irusa.org/wills** 



#### \*Coming Soon\*

Represent Team Blue by visiting our digital store to grab some of your favorite IRUSA merchandise. You can purchase items from bed sheets to books that donate proceeds towards IRUSA. **irusa.org/store** 



Your donations can be even more powerful when you register them for Matching Gifts! Employers often offer their employees the matching-gifts incentive to encourage charitable giving – sometimes, they even extend their matching program to include donations made by an employee's spouse or by retired employees. Participating in Matching Gifts means the power of your donation can be multiplied with no additional cost to you. irusa.org/matching-gifts



Donating stocks is a great way to use your securities to help IRUSA provide vital aid around the world. **irusa.org/stock-donations** 

#### RUND

Round up your spare change from daily purchase transactions to the nearest dollar, donate to humanitarian causes, and make a lasting impact. irusa.org/iRound



Ready to get rid of your car, motorcycle, boat, or even jet ski? Donate your vehicle and the proceeds will support IRUSA's humanitarian work. **irusa.org/cars** 

#### **IRAISE**

IRaise is the #1 virtual crowdfunding platform for IRUSA volunteers and influencers, designed to make fundraising easy and impactful. As an IRaiser, you can choo<u>se a cause that</u> resonates with you - whether it's providing humanitarian aid in Gaza, building a well in South Africa, or distributing hot meals across the US. Create a custom page with your name or your team's, set a goal, and share it on social media. Watch donations roll in while we allocate funds to your chosen cause, so you can campaign with confidence. irusa.org/iRaise



Did you know you can donate to IRUSA with a text message? Simply text **IRUSA** to **50155** and follow the prompts.



There are several more creative ways you can support IRUSA's humanitarian programming. From turning your personal shopping into a charitable experience to crowdfunding, check out the full list at:

irusa.org/creative-giving



### CAN YOU HELP THE VOLUNTEER DELIVER THE AID BOX?

IRUSA needs your help to navigate through a tricky maze and deliver aid. Can you guide us through the twists and turns? Follow the path carefully and watch out for obstacles.









28 | PARTNERSHIP

### DESIGN YOUR OWN KUFFIYEH

The kuffiyeh (or keffiyeh) is a traditional headscarf worn in the Middle East, especially in Palestine. It's usually made of cotton and features a checkered pattern, often in black and white, though it can come in many colors.

The kuffiyeh is a symbol of pride and identity for Palestinians. It's worn by farmers, leaders, and activists, and today, it's a global symbol of solidarity for Palestinian rights.

Now it's your turn to design your own kuffiyeh! Color it in and add your own patterns. You can stick with the classic black-and-white, or use any colors you like! Get creative!





### WHAT



Look through some of our programming and responses around the world.

## EDUCATION

One in five adults around the world have not received any formal education, and in the Middle East, North Africa, and sub-saharan Africa, nearly 41% of the adults have not completed even one year of school. The number of uneducated women is nearly double that of men.

IRUSA assists children in going back to school through various projects such as the Assisting Out of School Girls Access to Education in Afghanistan projects and educational scholarships. They also help adults gain the knowledge they need for employment through vocational training such as bookkeeping training, tailoring training, and more.

Valdete now has the knowledge to support herself and her son thanks to IRUSA donors like you. **Read her story:** 

#### VALDETE'S STORY SKOSOVO

Valdete is a widow who lives alone with her son. Unfortunately, she was unemployed and lived in a difficult economic condition.

Prior to attending IRUSA's tailoring training, she managed to survive through social assistance from various IRUSA projects such as scholarships for children and food packages.

391,645 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF

**PEOPLE SUPPORTED** 





Now, thanks to IRUSA donors, she completed a tailoring training and was able to secure a job through her newly attained skills. She states that she acquired a lot of new knowledge and skills, and the confidence to work.

She expresses her gratitude for this training and for every kind of help she has received from IRUSA.

# 

Hunger around the world continues to rise, with over 864 million people experiencing severe food insecurity, going without food for an entire day or more at times. That is why food aid is IRUSA's largest sector of IRUSA's humanitarian aid.

> Um Alaa was able to feed her family thanks to IRUSA donors. Read her story:

#### UM ALAA'S STORY **Q** Iraq



After a fatal car accident that resulted in the death of her husband and son-in-law, Um Alaa struggled to provide for her daughter and three grandchildren. "We rely on the generosity of benefactors and the aid provided at the camp to meet our family's nutritional needs," she shared.

Not having enough food is a constant struggle for the family of five. "The constant worry about where our next meal will come from creates immense stress and anxiety, affecting our physical and mental well-being."

Thanks to IRUSA donors like you, Um Alaa received a food basket that contained essential food items that can sustain a family for approximately 10-15 days.

"This program demonstrates IRUSA's commitment to supporting vulnerable communities and ensuring access to basic necessities. We are glad that you visited our camp."

> NUMBER OF **FOOD PROJECTS**

4.408.268 **PEOPLE SUPPORTED** 

COUNTRIES **WE WORK IN** 

United States

COUNTRIES WE WORK IN **United States** 

32 | PARTNERSHIP

## HEALTH

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), some 4.5 billion people — more than half the world's population — are currently without adequate access to essential healthcare services in 2024. IRUSA is dedicated to improving access to healthcare for those around the world and here at home, and in 2024 alone, had some 65 health projects.

Thanks to IRUSA donors. Hana is able to attend psychosocial services. Read her story:

**3.5 BILLION PEOPLE** WITH ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE **4.5 BILLION PEOPLE** WITOUT ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE

**OVER HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION LACK ADEQUATE HEALTHCARE SERVICES** 

## LIVELIHOOD

The amount of people living in extreme poverty around the world continues to rise, with an estimated 9.2% of the world's population surviving on less than \$2.15 a day. IRUSA donors help people acquire the skills they need to develop a reliable means of earning income through sustainable livelihood projects.

> Ali is now able to sustain himself and his family thanks to IRUSA donors like you. Read his story:

**MORE THAN 9% OF THE POPULATION** LIVES OFF \$2.15 A DAY

#### ALI'S STORY Somalia

-9.2%

Ali is a father of 11 children and a farmer of plants and vegetables including tomato, onion, lettuce, lemon, dates, and guava.

Ali recalls his years as a teenager, when his family raised livestock. "When I was a teenager we were pure nomads with more than 80 camels and 700 sheep and goats and the situation of the country was good at that time. There was no fear of hunger and displacement and life was forging ahead happily."

Due to recurrent droughts in Somalia caused by climate change, Ali lost most of his livestock and finally decided to try his hand at agricultural farming on his family's land. Access to water for irrigation has been a primary concern for Ali, and output has been low.

Thanks to your donations, a drip irrigation system was installed on Ali's land and a shallow well on his land was rehabilitated. Now, Ali is



able to access water for irrigation easily. He also received training on agricultural practices and output.

"Now water is available to me and with the skills and knowledge I got from the training, I am confident that this time my crop yield will be much higher than

NUMBER OF LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS

3,115,889 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF **PEOPLE SUPPORTED** 

#### HANA'S STORY 🕈 Lebanon

Hana, her husband, and their four children sought refuge in Lebanon after their livelihood was destroyed in Syria. "I remember the night we left," she recalls. "We could hear the bombs in the distance. We packed what we could carry and just ran."



Palestine

The psychological toll of displacement took an immense toll on Hana, and she often found herself overwhelmed by anxiety and fear for her children's future.

Thanks to donors like you, Hana was able to attend psychological and social support sessions designed for refugees. "The sessions were a turning point for me," Hana explains. "I always considered myself strong, but these sessions made me even stronger."

> 3,863,954 PEOPLE SUPPORTED

**HEALTH PROJECTS** 

**COUNTRIES** WE WORK IN

Kenya

Pakistan Palestine

before."

Macedonia South Sudan Türkiye

34 | PARTNERSHIP

COUNTRIES

WE WORK IN

## ORPHANS **& CHILDREN**

There are at least **150 million orphans worldwide**. However, some say that the actual number is much higher because millions of orphans are not included in official statistics.

Islamic Relief USA works to improve the lives of orphaned children by protecting them from illness; providing them with educational opportunities; and giving them access to proper nutrition, water, and sanitation services.

This support has changed lives, including Hamnah's. **Read their story:** 

#### HAMNAH'S STORY **9** Pakistan

When Hamnah's husband passed away from leukemia, she and her two sons, Ahmad and Zaid, were left without any means of support.

Hamnah's unwavering faith supports her as she struggles with her heart condition, which causes only half of her heart to work. She told us, "I get my strength from Allah (SWT), when your relationship with Allah is strong, Allah (SWT) is your strength."

Through IRUSA's Orphan Sponsorship program, Ahmad and Zaid will receive the highest level of care and access to an education, preparing them for a brighter future.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF **ORPHANS PART OF OUR ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP** PROGRAM

ORPHANS HAVE

LOST BOTH PARENTS

26.854

27

NUMBER OF **ORPHANS & CHILDREN PROJECTS** 

**150 MILLION** 

**ORPHANS WORLDWIDE** 

## REFUGEES

The number of people forced to flee their homes has almost doubled in the past decade, with at least 120 million people worldwide now forcibly displaced.

More than 40% of displaced people are children. IRUSA works around the world to help refugees and internally displaced people, such as Syrian refugees in Türkiye, Sudanese refugees in Chad, and Haitian refugees in Mexico, settle in their host countries. We also are helping nearly 1,052 refugees in the US.

> Makendy started his new life in Mexico thanks to IRUSA donors like you. Read his story:

% **PERCENTAGE OF** DISPLACED PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

**DISPLACED CHILDREN 48 MILLION (40% OF DISPLACED PEOPLE)** DISPLACED ADULTS 72 MILLION (60% OF DISPLACED PEOPLE)

NUMBER OF **REFUGEE PROJECTS** 

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR REFUGEE** WORK IN THE US, SEE PAGE 12

#### **Mexico** MAKENDY'S STORY

Makendy and Lourdes fled Haiti due to a dire humanitarian situation caused by gang violence, insecurity, and lack of access to basic services. Through the support of Islamic Relief USA, they were able to take part in the Mexico Local Integration Program. The program supported refugee and asylum seeking families through livelihood support activities to rebuild their futures in Mexico.

Through the program, their family was relocated where they both found permanent employment at a company that manufactures automotive parts. They are even able to work different schedules so that they can take turns caring for their son.

"The day they called me to let me know that I had been hired at Exedy was a great happiness for me," says Makendy.

While they have had the chance to rebuild their lives, their dream is to reunite with their family. "If I can bring my children back from Haiti, I will buy a house and a car here in Mexico. I want to live here."



Pakistan

Palestine

Somalia



36 | PARTNERSHIP

Albania Bangladesh Chechnya

Indonesia Lebanon Malawi Mali Jordan

Pakistan Palestine\* Türkiye\*\*\* Somalia South Africa

**COUNTRIES** 

**WE WORK IN** 

Afghanistan Bangladesh Chad DRC Greece

Haiti Iraq Jordan Lebanon

Guatemala Libya

Malawi Mali Mexico Morocco

Syria\* Türkiye Philippines United States

## WATER

Access to clean water is not just a matter of convenience, it's a fundamental human right.

As of 2024, 2.2 billion people globally do not have access to clean, safe drinking water. Instead of turning on their faucets or flushing their toilets like we do, they source their water from scarce and contaminated water sources, leading to 3.4 million deaths each year. At IRUSA, our water projects around the world focus on improving access to clean water sources, and reducing the impact of water-related disease through water, sanitation, and hygiene [WASH] measures.

27.5%

2.2 BILLION PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE SAFE

**DRINKING WATER** 

Ghulam now has the infrastructure to irrigate and drain water on his farmland thanks to IRUSA donors like you. Read his story:

#### GHULAM'S STORY **Pakistan**



A farmer in Pakistan, Ghulam cares for his 12 family members on the little money he makes due to the poor farming conditions in his village. The sandy soils have restricted the farmland's capacity for natural production because it does not retain water well.

Ethiopia

Ghulam was selected to have a water storage facility built on his farmland to help irrigate and drain the land through IRUSA's Action for Drought Adaptive Practices and Transformation (ADAPT) project. This will prevent water wastage and have an immense effect on crop production.

Thanks to your generous donations, Ghulam says that IRUSA has allowed "a new phase of life." NUMBER OF WATER PROJECTS

51

**2,609,732** ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

COUNTRIES WE WORK IN

Ghana Niger sh Lebanon Pakis Malawi Pales Mali Soma Nenal South

Niger South Suc Pakistan Sri Lanka Palestine Yemen Somalia South Africa One in every 10 women is living in extreme poverty, and if the trend continues, 342.4 million women and girls will still be living on less than \$2.15 a day by 2030. Women are also less likely to have access to financial institutions and bank accounts, which exasperates their situations. IRUSA is dedicated to serving women across the various sectors we work in including food aid, socio-economic empowerment, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.



Thanks to IRUSA donors, Shazia is able to run a successful business. Read her story:

WOMEN

#### SHAZIA'S STORY 💡 Afghanistan



Having lost everything to a house fire, Shazia and her family were forced to settle in a one-room mud house. Shazia is the family's sole breadwinner, with her husband currently unemployed and finding it difficult to find work.

"The fire had taken away everything we owned, leaving us worried about our future. Both my husband and I were unemployed, which made it difficult to get through each day and night. The rent for the house was a constant struggle, and we couldn't afford enough food."

Shazia started a small business that was generating around \$28 a month. Through IRUSA, Shazia participated in an eight-day small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) training course and after completing the training, received a financial grant of 60,000 Afs (approx. \$850) to expand and sustain her business. Now, Shazia's business generates \$84 a month.

"I have assumed the role of supporting my family's needs by working hard. Thanks to the income I have generated, I was able to invest and purchase 10 chickens, enabling me to sell their eggs and generate additional income."

32 NUMBER OF WOMEN PROJECTS



tan Kosova Liberia esh Morocco Palestine Philippines

rra Leone Turki nalia Yeme Ith Sudan Ian ia\*

38 | PARTNERSHIP

## Faith-Based Giving

In Islam, it is highly encouraged for Muslims to give charity to those in need, especially during Ramadan. It is also mandatory to give charity – Qurbani and Zakat – for some Muslims during certain times of the year. Qurbani, or Udhiyah, commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's (AS) willingness to sacrifice his son, Prophet Ismail (AS). On this day, which falls on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, Muslims sacrifice an animal. The meat is then distributed to family, friends, and those in need, which is an effective way to address food insecurity. Zakat, or almsgiving, is one of the five pillars of Islam, and is mandatory for every sane, adult Muslim who owns wealth over a certain amount. He or she must pay 2.5% of that wealth as Zakat to those in need.

When you give your faith-based charity through IRUSA, it's powerful, impactful, and its potential grows by multiples. Take a look at some of those you have helped through faith-based charity.

#### ZAKAT zainab's story 9 Mali

Zainab is the sole provider for her five children, and works as a house help for minimal money. "Life is very hard now. The cost of living is quite high. I earn very little and often the wages are delayed. I am forced to live off debts to ensure I take care of my children," she shared.

Thanks to IRUSA donors like you, Zainab was able to receive food that helped her feed her family. "There was excitement since we received the token vouchers the day before [the] distribution."

The family received enough food to feed her family for 15 days. "We were surprised by the amount of food we have all received. We have received a lot of food. We are grateful to Allah (SWT) for providing us with food."

40 | PARTNERSHIP

#### 563,629 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

#### 956,720 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED

#### RAMADAN Ma acah's story

♥ Indonesia
Ma Acah is a widow with no children that lives alone with no income to support herself. She relies on donations and support from the government to fulfill her needs.

"For my daily meals, I usually just cook rice. After that, I buy the side dishes at a rice stall with [the] money [I receive] from the government. But when the groceries run out and I have no money, I can only eat when a neighbor gives me food."

Thanks to IRUSA donors, Ma Acah received a Ramadan food parcel that provided her with enough food for the entire month.

"The Ramadan food parcel support from Islamic Relief USA is very helpful for an elderly person like me who really needs this type of support. I really hope that there will continue to be this support to help fulfill the food needs of my life who have no family and no income."



#### **QURBANI** AICHATA'S STORY

Kenya Aichata is a widowed mother of four who provides for her family on her own. She sells nuts to support her children, but there are many days she returns home with very little earning.

Aichata is trying her best to make sure her children are taken care of. "It is very important for children to eat meat if they are to grow properly. However, we have to do without meat most of the time because we can't afford it," she shared.

Thanks to donors like you, IRUSA's Qurbani program was able to provide meat for Aichata's family. "I cannot tell you how much this Qurbani meat pack is helpful for me and my children. Thanks to this Qurbani meat, we enjoyed the Eid al-Adha to the fullest like everybody else.

"The children are so happy. On behalf of the whole family, I thank the generous donors so much. May Allah (SWT) grant them the best in Jannah!"

# 

APRIL 2023	SEPTEMBER 2023	OCTOBER 2023	APRIL 2024	MAY 2024	JULY 2024	AUGUST 2024	SEPTEMBER 2024	OCTOBER 2024	NOVEMBER 2024	DECEMBER 2024	
Ŷ	Ŷ	Ŷ	Ŷ	Ŷ	<b>P</b>	P	Ŷ	Î	o I	Ŷ	

**On September** 8, 2023, a 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck Morocco, killing more than 2,900. **IRUSA** launched an emergency response in Morocco, working with local partners on the ground to provide emergency MOROCCO relief including food, non-food items, and emergency shelter.

On October 7, 2023, violence escalated between Israel and Palestine, and the death toll has risen to an extremely high number amid Israel's continued bombardment of the besieged enclave. IRUSA has committed over \$29.4 million dollars through twelve partner organizations working in Gaza to provide emergency relief and humanitarian aid in Palestine including Ramadan food distributions, medical care, winter aid, improved access to water, psychological support, and much more. **E**S **IRUSA** has provided support to over 106,236 households to date.

On April 15, 2023, armed clashes erupted between armed groups in multiple cities across Sudan. **IRUSA** launched an emergency response in Sudan to support those affected by violence across the country.

On September 11, 2023, heavy rainfall brought by Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst, killing 4,300 people and leaving 10,000 missing. IRUSA launched an emergency response and provided urgent emergency aid in the form of food aid, cash assistance, pharmaceuticals, medical and mental health care, water, and winter aid, medical supplies and more.

On May 10, flash floods caused by heavy rains devastated villages in northern Afghanistan, killing 315 people and injuring more than 1,600. IRUSA launched an emergency campaign and distributed **FGHANISTAN** multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), food items, and non-food items to the most vulnerable flood-affected people.

On April 29, the Old Kijabe dam burst due to torrential rainfall. IRUSA responded by supporting the provision of cash transfers and strategic borehole rehabilitations in four counties of Kenya. We reached 2,800 families in Tana River County, 700 families in Garissa County, and 2,776 families in Mandera and Wajira counties.

Starting in early August, torrential monsoon rains caused unprecedented flooding in Bangladesh. **IRUSA** launched an emergency response in Bangladesh to distribute multi-purpose 🛄 cash assistance to flood-affected communities to purchase food, water, medicine, and other essential items.

On July 8, Hurricane Beryl made landfall on the Gulf Coast of Texas as a Category 1 storm. **IRUSA** launched an emergency response and provided 500 flood buckets, a truck filled with pallets of water, and hot meals for 10,000 people.

EXA

Severe storms on May 16 left eight people dead in Houston NOTSUOH following severe weather that affected the city. DMT deployed a group of volunteers to assess the damage and support those affected.

Hurricane Milton made landfall on October 9 on Florida's Gulf Coast as a Category 3 storm. **IRUSA's DMT deployed** a group of volunteers to assist in the muck

FLORIDA and gut work for homes damaged by

the hurricane.

Hurricane Helene made landfall on September 26, on Florida's Gulf Coast, as a powerful Category 4 hurricane and left a path of CAR destruction over 500 miles long. IRUSA's Disaster Management Team (DMT) deployed a group of volunteers to assist in the and gut work, and asses damage through FEMA. volunteers to assist in the muck and gut work, and assessed the

On September 23, Israel launched intense air strikes across areas of Lebanon, marking the deadliest day of Israeli strikes in Lebanon since the 2006 war. IRUSA launched an emergency response and provided immediate emergency assistance including food aid, essential non-food items, and access to proper healthcare to families in desperate need.

When the Assad regime fell on December 8, IRUSA responded by providing emergency relief to conflictaffected people in northwestern Syria. IRUSA provided cash assistance, winter aid, and implemented **Y** a comprehensive orphan sponsorship program.

Colombia was impacted with widespread flooding, landslides, and infrastructure damage causing the government of Colombia to Declare a State of Emergency. **IRUSA's DMT deployed** a group of volunteers to conduct a needs assessment and provide life-saving food aid.

BIA

COLOM

SUDAN



















## MAKEA DIFFERENCE WITH RAISE

Create your OWN fundraising campaign with IRAISE and help change lives and support those in need. Whether you're helping families in crisis, building water wells, or providing education, your efforts will make a lasting impact.











IRUSA

### **CREATE YOUR FUNDRAISER TODAY**

IRUSA.ORG/IRAISE



Look through some of our programming and see how you can get involved.





EAN there

DONE that

IRUSA.ORG 4

#### Islamic Relief USA's

Volunteer Management Office (VMO) has carried out fundraiser events such as paint nights, bowling nights, tatreez workshops, and Jiu Jitsu workshops, as well as various tournaments such as volleyball, basketball, softball, and badminton in an effort to engage our volunteers and donors in a fun and creative way. These events bring communities together to raise awareness and donations for the different programs and causes we support at IRUSA.

Take a look at your fundraisers from 2024 and read some testimonials from our volunteers.



#### **PAINT FOR PALES** Featuring Artist:

#### **35** ATTENDEES

**IRVING, TX** 

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my art with you. We ask God to help our brothers in need everywhere. Thank you to everyone who participated and enjoyed the drawing experience!"





#### **42** ATTENDEES **ALEXANDRIA, VA**

you immensely for thinking of Sudan and making this event a reality. I know it means a lot to so many people. My parents were really excited and so proud to be there."

INTERESTED IN ATTENDING **OR LEADING THE NEXT** FUNRAISER? SCAN TO SIGN UP!

### "May Allah (SWT) bless

### **PAINT FOR** Featuring Artist: Saima Khalid Niaz

**47** ATTENDEES

#### **ALEXANDRIA, VA**

"To come out in support of the people of Afghanistan is an immense honor, especially since they are constantly dealing with one tragedy after another and it oftentimes goes



#### PUMPKINS FOR PALESTINE

**60** ATTENDEES **ALEXANDRIA, VA** 

"This is a beautiful and unique event that allows us to express ourselves for the sake of the Palestinians."

### Featuring Artist: Zaynab Alsharif

**40** ATTENDEES **ALEXANDRIA, VA** 

"I am Palestinian who was born and raised here in the US, and I'm excited to get in touch with my cultural roots and attend this workshop."

### **BOWL FOR BANGLADESH**

#### **55** ATTENDEES

HOUSTON, TX

SUMMER

SOFTBALL CUP

"From a simple idea to planning the event to executing on the day of, it was all such a beautiful and fun initiative that went in for a bigger cause and alhamdulillah it was worth every second that was put in from anyone involved, all to help the flood victims in Bangladesh. It felt fulfilling to do something for our 'desh and raise awareness for something that may not be looked too much upon. Alhamdullilah, it was so wholesome to see everyone having fun and enjoying the traditional snacks. May Allah (SWT) accept our efforts and forgive us for our shortcomings, ameen."

#### **70 ATTENDEES** CHICAGO, IL

abers

"Jazak Allahu Khairan to Islamic Relief USA and all the individuals who helped organize and provided a platform for us to play. Congrats to all the teams that played. You guys were all very good and I enjoyed the brotherhood today. I hope whatever we gave will help those suffering. Would love to do this again!"



"I loved this event, this is something I would love to do again and hopefully have some friends join me as well. I loved that me going to this helped the people of Gaza."

## BLUESHIRT VOLUN TEER SPOTLIGHTS

"A perspective I gained through volunteering with Islamic Relief USA is knowing people want to help and give back to their communities when given the opportunity. Especially during difficult times, there is so much power and solace in the community." - Jeyda A. "I can't think of a single reason not to become a Blueshirt volunteer. Some of my most memorable experiences have been volunteering with Islamic Relief USA. Nothing beats being surrounded by amazing people who are driven by the same goal. As a result, I've made some of my closest friends through IRUSA. I only wish for others to experience the same joy that I was blessed with through this incredible organization." - Afrah A.



"The next time an event opens up you should definitely be there, you develop so many friendships and everlasting bonds, almost like a second family."- Izan A.

"Volunteering opened my eyes to the challenges faced by our community, deepening my empathy and understanding of social issues. I gained a greater appreciation for the dedication and hard work that goes into nonprofit work and the impact it can have on individuals' lives. Overall, my experiencehas inspired me to remain actively involved in community service and advocacy efforts moving forward."- Umair S. "Being a Blueshirt volunteer is the best decision I have ever made because I have connected with my community in a way I never thought was possible before and have made friends that will last a lifetime, insha'Allah."

– Alex M.

#### "A message

I'd like to share with the audience and potential volunteers is to never hesitate in bringing forward their own ideas. Islamic Relief USA is an organization that not only welcomes new ideas but also supports them wholeheartedly." – Yasmeen F.

"The environment in IRUSA is the most genuine, collaborative, hardworking, positive, and stress-free environment I've encountered.

I remember being stopped in a Puerto Rico deployment by one of the locals who said 'I remember seeing your Blueshirts last year, we're very grateful for all the hard work you do here.' This really sent a wave of happiness inside me and showed me how powerful and impactful our efforts are."- Sara 1.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER TODAY



48 | PARTNERSHIP

"I love to volunteer

with IRUSA because

I'm able to see that

the time and hard work

that we are putting into

volunteering, and the

money that is being

help or change

somebody else's

life." - Omar A.

funded is going to

#### YOUR TAX DOLLAR\$ EMPOWERING CHANGE THROUGH YOUR VOTE!

YOUR TAX DOLLARS SUPPORT IMPORTANT HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING



You might NOT CONTROL whether you PAY TAXES, But YOUR VOTE and CONTINUED ADVOCACY CAN INFLUENCE how this money is spent!



An event where a group of people visit Capitol Hill to meet with elected officials and share information about a particular issue.

000





IRUSA was one of the first organizations to call for a Gaza ceasefire? Our Advocates met with representatives and held coalition meetings with partners and **IRUSAdvocates on Hill Days.** 



## PARTICIPATE FOR IMPACT

Participate for Impact is a pilot event that brings together the Volunteer Management Office, US Programs, Public Affairs, Research, and Advocacy (PARA), and Fundraising departments of Islamic Relief USA. At our first event in California, we had over 80 volunteers that came to pack a meal, get advocacy training, and stayed for a fundraising dinner. Our second event was in Dallas, TX, on September 14, and there we packed meals that were distributed at Maarouf, an IRUSA refugee resettlement partner. In both events, attendees were given the opportunity to learn about domestic policies that impact the communities that they care about. We discussed the Farm Bill, Child Tax Credit, and the Afghan Adjustment Act.

We want our supporters to know that there are many ways to support IRUSA, not just with donations, but with advocacy and volunteering as well.

All three campaigns can be found on irusa.org/advocacy.

## CAMPUS ENGAGEME

At Duke University in January, we joined with chaplains from universities across the US to address the challenges facing students due to the rise of Islamophobia and antisemitism increasing since October of 2023. In addition, we host universities such as Boston College, who visited our headquarters again this summer with their newest cohort of social work graduate students, to present to them on our United States Refugees Admissions Program and refugee work and to exchange ideas on how we can partner to address the most pressing human needs and issues today and tomorrow - preparing for the future.







This fall, there was an unprecedented convergence in New York of the UN Summit of the Future, UN Climate Week, and the UN General Assembly (UNGA) all of which Islamic Relief USA took part in. CEO, Ahmed Shehata also took part in the Clinton Global Initiative, which took advantage of the many heads of state in town to convene. One of the notable achievements of the week was the highlighting of our new partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The CEO office and PARA team took part in organizing two panels - one on Islamic Philanthropy, where a formal Memorandum of Understanding was signed, and another around refugees and welcoming the stranger from a multifaith lens. IRUSA staff attended various other events around Gaza, vulnerable children out of school around the globe, and Christina Tobias-Nahi, our PARA Director, was invited to an intimate gathering with the CEO of Chobani to taste test some new products like a strong fortified nonperishable milk that could be used to feed hungry people in precarious situations such as displacement.

G20 INTERFAITH S FORUM BRAZIL

GOOD

NO POVERT

QUALITY

GENDER

LIFE BELOW

CLEAN

ON LAND

QUALITY

ACTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have, for the past decade, provided a new approach for uplifting people among International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) such as IRUSA, and a framework around which to mobilize. Research points out that, "expectations from non-governmental organization leaders are higher than from others. They must combine ethical and technical competence to achieve sustainable development goals. INGOs support international development, direct aid effort, promote their own specific causes, and influence public policies."

As we approach the final decade for implementation of Agenda 2030, INGOs such as IRUSA as providing visible and credible information and explanations about the need to accomplish the SDGs, and they are helping to mobilize for policy changes that will narrow the wide gap that still exists between the aspiration of the goals and their actual execution - the reality is we are falling short in almost all countries, including the US.

It should come as no surprise then that religious communities and global leaders

#### WHAT IS A POLYCRISIS?

The term polycrisis describes a complex situation where multiple, interconnected crises converge and amplify each other, resulting in systemic challenges that are difficult to manage. Unlike single crises, which may have clear causes and solutions, a polycrisis involves overlapping and interdependent issues. This concept reflects growing concerns about the sustainability and viability of contemporary socio-economic, political, and ecological systems. The concept was coined in the 1990s but has reemerged recently to refer to the combined effects for example of the COVID-19 pandemic, war, surging country debt levels, inflation, climate change, resource depletion, and growing inequality around the globe.

across the world share a priority focus on finding solutions. Brazil, which held the G20 presidency in 2024, hosted in August the G20 Interfaith Forum, representing a diverse network of religiously inspired networks and other stakeholders, CEO, Ahmed Shehata and Director of Public Affairs, Research, and Advocacy, Christina Tobias-Nahi, each spoke on panels around global health and our US refugee work respectively as we continue to showcase our thought leadership on international platforms. They also visited the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Brasilia office to learn more about the local situation there, and how IRUSA can be a resource to the still arriving Afghan population. It was a very fruitful gathering and stressed the urgency of action for people and the planet given the polycrisis before us. We look forward to participation in South Africa which will hold the G20 presidency in 2025, and invite you to reach out to learn more and get involved.

ENERGY

PEACE AND

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ECONOMIC

PARTNERSHIPS





### JOIN US IN ADVOCATING FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF!

For IRUSA, advocacy means working with YOU to elevate humanitarian voices and the voices of those we serve. We are devoted to helping people in need across the country from all walks of life.



BECOME AN IRUSADVOCATE TODAY!

IRUSA.ORG/ADVOCACY





## JOIN OUR CHALLENGES

IRUSA Adventure Challenges and Inspire trips offer life-changing experiences that not only let participants explore new places and meet new people, but also raise awareness and support for important humanitarian work and programs.

Read what recent challengers had to say about their trips:

#### Kilimanjaro Adventure Challenge

"My journey ascending Mt. Kilimanjaro proved to be profoundly grounding and humbling, an experience for which I'll forever cherish. Reaching the summit at Uhuru Peak was challenging yet incredibly rewarding, instilling a deep appreciation for both my health and the transformative power of embracing discomfort for personal growth. I wholeheartedly recommend joining this adventure, or any form of challenge that pushes one's limits."

- Ayah

#### Pakistan Adventure Challenge

"From the very beginning of this challenge, I found myself reflecting on what I have done in my life that merits such a life experience. The beautiful creation of Allah (SWT) in Skardu, along with the wonderful people around me, kept me praising Him at all times. It felt like a glimpse of paradise on Earth and made me think to myself, if this is not heaven, then what awaits us in the Hereafter? The moments we prayed together and helped each other by sharing necessary tools and items for the hike — without hesitation, even knowing we would need them later — made me feel part of a mini Ummah. While I felt immense happiness, it also brought a deep sense of pain to my heart.

I wish we could unite as a bigger Ummah, just as we did on this trip, which encouraged me to pray for Muslims around the world to strengthen their faith and love for one another."

- Yosra



#### Türkiye Adventure Challenge

"Cycling across Türkiye was an unforgettable adventure, blending physical challenge with rich cultural immersion and history. Each day brought a new landscape, offering breathtaking views and having good company with the cycling team. Along the way, I experienced Turkish hospitality, sampled local dishes, and visited historic sites like ancient ruins and iconic mosques.

The journey tested my endurance and resilience but left me with a profound appreciation for Türkiye's beauty, culture, and warmth." - **Omar** 



#### 🕑 Costa Rica Adventure Challenge

"As we trekked from campsite to campsite each night during our stay in Costa Rica, it gave me a small glimpse of the struggles that displaced people have to endure. Packing our belongings and carrying them with us every day and walking for miles while hungry, thirsty, and tired opened up my eyes to the reality of what millions around the world are currently experiencing, especially those in Sudan, Palestine, and Lebanon.

This experience not only humbled me, but also filled my heart with gratitude to Allah (SWT) for all the innumerable blessings He has provided us and I pray He grants all those suffering around the world the same and more." - Shawana



#### Assalaamu Alaikum. Peace Be Upon You.



My first year as chairman of the IRUSA Board of Directors was met with unprecedented violence in places like Gaza, Sudan, and Lebanon, and climate-induced disasters in places like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, Florida, and Texas. And yet, through it all, IRUSA volunteers, partners, and donors answered our call time and time again to serve those in need.

In 2024 alone, you helped deliver aid to more than 8,734,405 people across more than 40 countries. Thanks to you, IRUSA was able to provide emergency relief, including food aid, cash assistance, medical care, winter aid, improved access to water, and psychological support to more than

106,236 Palestinian households in Gaza. We also provided emergency relief to flood-affected communities in Bangladesh, Kenya, Florida, and Texas, such as cash grants for food, water, temporary shelter, and medicine. We were also able to sponsor more than 26,854 orphans and children in need, provide winter aid kits to 68,507 people in need, and much more.

We know that none of this would have been possible without your support. My first year as chairman has taught me that there is unity among us – our donors, volunteers, staff, and partners – and together, we can see a world free of poverty. I am honored to have been on this journey with you all for the past year, and I am dedicated to continue providing effective and efficient support to families in need both here at home and around the world.

Jazak Allahu Khairan.

Sincerely,

Ahmed Azam Chairman of IRUSA Board of Directors

# Thank You!

## IROUND

## Donate spare change from daily purchases to Islamic Relief USA.

Round up your spare change from daily purchase transactions to the nearest dollar, donate to humanitarian causes, and make a lasting impact.



### SIGN UP TODAY! IRUSA.ORG/IROUND



#### **ISLAMIC RELIEF USA**

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