



Your Impact

2025

A Year
of Impact:

*Emergency response
and development
projects across
38 countries, and
right here at home,
in South Africa*

*Millions reached
through food, water,
and shelter*

*Frontline stories
from 2025*



Contents

5

Letter from
the CEO

6

Sudan
The world's
worst
humanitarian
crisis

10

Crisis
Watch
Providing
hope and relief
in times of
emergency

12

Somalia
Turning
the tide in
Puntland and
Somaliland

14

Gaza
Mothers and
babies surviving
against all odds
in Gaza

16

Afghanistan
Orphans
Giving Afghan
children a
future through
education

18

Ramadan
& Qurbani
The sacred
rhythm of
nourishment:

20

Syria &
Yemen
Delivering life-
saving health
care in conflict
zones

22

Türkiye &
Bangladesh
Providing education
in crisis zones
in Türkiye and
Bangladesh

24

South Africa
Your impact
at home

25

Food Security
Nourishing
communities
across
South Africa

26

Education
Investing in the
leaders of
tomorrow

27

Orphan Care
and Safeguarding
Caring for
orphaned
children in
South Africa

28

Sustainable
Livelihoods
Empowering
women and
youth towards
self-reliance

29

Early
warning
systems
Preventing
disaster
through risk
interventions

30

Healthcare
Expanding
healthcare in
underserved
communities

31

Water and
Sanitation
Access to
clean water,
sanitation, and
good hygiene
practices



Letter from the CEO

2025 has been overshadowed by the cataclysmic situation in Gaza. The cruelty and devastation have been truly heartbreaking to witness. Yet, in the midst of such pain, our team and partners in Gaza show extraordinary courage. With unwavering dedication, they continue to deliver life-saving aid under the harshest of conditions.

Far less in the headlines, but still deeply devastating, is the ongoing conflict in Sudan. Our staff, like the wider population, have been profoundly affected. Tragically, we lost a much-loved colleague there this year. Their passing is a painful reminder of the risks humanitarian workers face every day to serve others. We continue to work tirelessly to ensure that Sudan's suffering is not forgotten, bringing the crisis to the attention of both the media and policymakers.

At the same time, the climate emergency continues to wreak havoc. In Pakistan, catastrophic floods struck again and, within 48 hours, Islamic Relief was on the ground providing food, shelter, clean water and other essentials. In Yemen, torrential rains and floods left entire communities struggling to recover. We responded quickly, providing cash assistance to help families recover with dignity.

This year alone, we have supported millions of people caught up in emergencies and disasters, while also helping communities to build long-term resilience to climate change in the countries where we work.

In Syria, which I visited, I saw how communities are slowly rebuilding after years of brutal civil war. I was shocked by the scale of destruction – whole towns razed to the ground, scenes tragically reminiscent of what we are seeing in Gaza today.

Islamic Relief stood by Syrians throughout the war, and together we have achieved so much. Today we are pioneering health services, from a cardiology hospital to a prosthetic limb centre, offering hope and healing to those who have endured unimaginable loss.

Beyond the headlines, we have supported people displaced by violence in Mali and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In DRC, we work through trusted local partners – because partnership is at the heart of who we are.

By working through local organisations, help reaches people more quickly in countries where Islamic Relief has no local presence, while ensuring support respects their culture and needs.

We've seen this transformative impact in many places: from rebuilding schools after the earthquake in Türkiye, to constructing classrooms in Bangladesh for children who fled the horrific violence in Myanmar.

Here in South Africa, we continue to witness deepening social and economic pressures affecting vulnerable communities. High levels of unemployment, food insecurity, and inequality place significant strain on households already struggling to meet basic needs.

During the winter months, recurring flooding in certain areas further increases vulnerability in already underprivileged communities, often resulting in damaged homes, disrupted livelihoods, and increased humanitarian need.

This is why we continue to stand alongside affected families through our local partners and community-based structures, delivering timely humanitarian assistance while investing in long-term sustainable development initiatives that strengthen resilience and restore dignity.

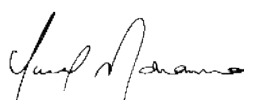
From emergency relief support to orphan care, education assistance, and livelihoods programmes, we remain committed to walking with communities on their journey towards stability and self-reliance.

None of this would be possible without you – our incredible supporters. From seasonal campaigns like Qurbani and Ramadan to local outreach and national fundraising efforts, your generosity continues to change lives every single day.



Thank you for standing with us.




Yusuf Mohamed
CEO
Islamic Relief South Africa

Sudan: The world's worst humanitarian crisis

"I've never seen displacement like this."

"I've worked in several conflict countries, but I've never seen the scale of displacement that we've seen in Sudan. It's catastrophic," says Mohammad Golam Sorwar, Islamic Relief Sudan's Head of Programmes.

Since war erupted in April 2023, more than 4 million people have fled Sudan, while an estimated 12 million are displaced inside the country.

Islamic Relief was first founded as a response to the famine in Darfur in 1984. Sadly, 41 years later, Sudan is still in crisis.

"So many of the places we work now have more displaced people than host communities. It is a massive challenge," Sorwar explains. "And people are often displaced multiple times in search of safety. Around 30 million people now depend on aid. Some are trying to return home, but there is nothing left to go back to. It is another crisis on top of the first."

Lives torn apart

"Visiting displaced people affected by the conflict is harrowing. Families are crammed into tiny, makeshift shelters that do not protect them from the weather. Food, firewood, and clean water are scarce. Many people have been separated from loved ones, with no way of knowing if they are alive or dead," says Sorwar.

"I remember seeing a man weeping because he didn't know what had happened to his family."

Aid workers aren't safe

Islamic Relief staff have not been spared. We were heartbroken to hear that Izzeldin Mohamed Juma, one of our longest-serving and most loved staff members in Sudan, was killed on 11 March while protecting his family when armed men attacked and looted their home in the Jebel Aulia area of Khartoum.

In May 2025, armed groups attacked the area where our office is located in West Kordofan. Staff were trapped in the area and some of them were tortured when they tried to escape.

Sorwar himself was working in the capital, Khartoum, when war broke out. "I woke up on a Saturday morning to loud explosions," he explained. "Day and night there was gunfire. For 10 days I was confined indoors with no electricity or running water, counting how much food I had left to survive.

"Many of our staff are traumatised. We've provided emergency financial support to help them get back on their feet, as well as psychosocial counselling. But insecurity remains high. Drone attacks, checkpoints, and ongoing fighting make it extremely difficult to work. As Head of Programmes, it is a constant challenge to balance security risks, deliver aid effectively, and safeguard staff well-being."



A nation in freefall

"The war has also destroyed Sudan's economy," Sorwar explains. "When fighting began, the exchange rate was around 30 Sudanese pounds to R1. Today, it's more than 120 to R1. Prices change daily, making aid planning nearly impossible."

Reaching over a million people

Despite the dangers, Islamic Relief has reached over 1.5 million people in Sudan since the war started in April 2023, providing:

- More than **4,600,000 metric tonnes (MT)** of food to almost 1 million people
- **Cash and cash-voucher assistance** to more than **82,000 displaced families**
- **1,520 tents** for displaced people in Gedaref, Port Sudan, and North Kordofan
- **Medicine and supplies** to **54 hospitals and clinics** in Al Jazirah, Central Darfur, Gedaref, and Sennar states
- More than **580,000 MT of agricultural seeds** in Gedaref state to 57,450 farmers
- More than **10 new or rehabilitated boreholes** in North Kordofan, Central Darfur, and Blue Nile, plus four large artificially constructed reservoirs (hafirs)
- Clean **water to 16,820 people** through water trucking
- **Safe spaces for women and children**, offering protection, counselling, and a sense of normality
- **Referrals for survivors of gender-based violence**

"I'm proud of what we have been able to achieve, especially in hard-to-reach areas where very few agencies operate," Sorwar reflects.

Behind the numbers are lives saved in health centres that never closed, even as war raged.





Health and nutrition: West Jabal Marra

When conflict erupted in April 2023, it quickly spread to the remote hills of West Jabal Marra in Central Darfur. Islamic Relief’s health and nutrition staff chose to stay, and their work has continued ever since.

That year, **more than 40,000 people received health and nutrition services. Two years later, those centres are still running, and in 2025 alone, more than 100,000 people have already accessed services.**

Fatima was just 18 months old when

her mother, Amina, carried her for three hours across unsafe roads to reach an Islamic Relief nutrition centre. The little girl was dangerously malnourished, her tiny frame growing weaker by the day. Within eight weeks of treatment Fatima had regained weight and energy. **“The nutrition centre saved my daughter’s life,”** Amina said. “When the fighting came, I thought we had lost everything. But the nurses never left. They were here when we needed them most.”

Alongside health and nutrition, we continue to provide water, food, and protection across Sudan.

Lives on the edge
North Kordofan: Struggling for water

North Kordofan is one of the states most severely affected by the conflict. Overcrowding is extreme, fighting continues, and acute water shortages have even triggered cholera outbreaks. Islamic Relief has drilled new boreholes to help ease the crisis.

Hanan Osman Bahkit (27) fled her home after armed men attacked her. Now living in a displacement camp in El Obeid with her mother and two sons, she struggles to provide for her family by washing neighbours’ clothes.

“It used to be so difficult to get clean water,” she says. **“Thanks to the borehole provided by Islamic Relief, we can now drink and bathe without queuing for hours.”**

Still, her greatest wish is simple: “We hope peace will come so we can return home and regain our lives.”

Gedaref: Lives uprooted and survival tested

In Gedaref, thousands of displaced families live in overcrowded shelters with poor sanitation and limited food.

Among them is **Abu Bakr Bano Mohammed Hamed, a 43-year-old farmer from Sharq Al-Bahar.** Before the war, he cultivated chilli, mint, and onions on 15 acres of land. Then armed men stormed his village.

“They kicked us out, beat us, and said the land belonged to them now,” he recalls. “They stole our cars, our crops, even the money we had saved. They left us with nothing.”

With his wife and two children, Abu Bakr fled east. The journey to Gedaref was brutal: two days without food or water, elders collapsing from exhaustion, and armed men blocking the roads. “Even the solar pumps that once gave travellers water had been seized,” he says.

When they finally arrived, there was no shelter waiting. “We slept under trees at first,” Abu Bakr explains. Later, community members helped build a makeshift tent. Food was scarce, sanitation dire, and disease spread quickly.

Islamic Relief was among the first to bring aid: rice, lentils, sugar, cooking oil - even bread from the bakery. **“May Allah bless them,”** he says. But Abu Bakr knows that this emergency aid alone cannot restore what was lost. “What we need most is safety. And a way to earn a living again. Right now, we have nothing.”

For families across Sudan, seasonal aid programmes have been a lifeline. **During Qurbani this year, Islamic Relief distributed fresh meat to more than 16,000 vulnerable households and Ramadan packages for 10,650 families,** reaching those who had gone without for months.

Halima Osman Ali (45), who fled with her four children, was one of the recipients. “We hadn’t eaten meat in months,” she explained. “The only protein we had was beans. Meat costs 20,000 Sudanese pounds (R650) per kilo. I just can’t afford it with so many other things to pay for and prices so high.”



Education: A gift of hope

For children, the conflict has stolen not only safety but also their chance to learn.

As part of the 2025 Eid ul Adha Gifts Programme, Islamic Relief distributed over 2,600 school bags filled with essential supplies to vulnerable children in Blue Nile State.

For Sawsan Abdalmajed, a 45-year-old teacher and mother in Damazine, the support was invaluable.

“My salary has been cut off because of the war. Sometimes we receive a small portion every few months, but it is not enough for food or medicine,” she explains. “Parents are asked to pay school fees, but most cannot. It is heartbreaking when children want to learn but we cannot provide what they need.

“The bags represented more than just stationery; they symbolised hope and the promise of a brighter future in education.”

Hope for Peace, Hope for Home

Sudan’s war has pushed millions into desperation, but the resilience of ordinary people remains striking. Aid is a lifeline, yet what they long for most is peace, dignity, and the chance to rebuild their lives.



Providing hope and relief in times of emergency

From Gaza to climate disasters, how Islamic Relief and its partners stood firm in 2025.

2025 has been defined by crisis. Over the course of the year Islamic Relief has responded to 20 emergencies across 15 countries.

From relentless conflict to cascading climate disasters, the scale of humanitarian need has been staggering.

For Islamic Relief, it has been a year of both heartbreak and resilience - one where local partners and staff continued to deliver lifesaving aid against all odds.

"Every time I speak to our partners in Gaza, I never know if it will be the last call," reflects Muneeb Abu-Ghazaleh, Islamic Relief's Head of Region for the Middle East and North Africa. *"They themselves are victims, yet they are determined to stay. I'm in awe of their courage."*

Gaza: Courage Under Fire

Nowhere has the cost of humanitarian work been more visible than in Gaza, where Islamic Relief's staff and partners risk their lives every day as they deliver aid. Despite attacks, ongoing hunger, displacement and personal loss, **they remain steadfast in serving their communities; a profound source of admiration and hope.**

Sudan: People helping each other

In Sudan, as in many other countries

where Islamic Relief works, local communities play a vital role in the emergency response.

When conflict broke out in April 2023, 22-year-old Siba Abaker Ali was studying at high school in Khartoum. She was displaced twice and now lives with her family in a camp for displaced people in Port Sudan. **They have received cash, food, shelter materials, clean water, and hygiene items, including sanitary towels.** "This support has truly brought relief

and dignity to many families in our community," says Siba.

Despite the challenges, she helps organise aid distributions and serves meals cooked by her mother in the community kitchen. She also makes and sells handicrafts to supplement the family income. Siba hopes the war will end soon so she can continue her education: "I dream of studying for a degree in Chemical Engineering, so I can build a successful and meaningful career," she concludes.

Responding beyond the headlines

While crises like Gaza dominate global news, countless others unfold quietly. **Islamic Relief created a 24/7 Emergency Fund to respond rapidly to small and medium-scale disasters that might otherwise be underfunded or overlooked.**

This year, the 24/7 fund has supported communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Mali displaced by conflict and survivors of an earthquake in Myanmar.

Support for the fund enables Islamic Relief to launch life-saving relief within hours of disaster.

A 7.7 magnitude earthquake, that led to the deaths of over 3,500 people and widespread destruction, led to the launch of a Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal. Supported by the DEC, **Islamic Relief provided shelter, food, clean water and cash for essential supplies to some of the worst-affected communities.**



Mali: Standing with Families Forced to Flee

Since May 2025, violence has once again torn through Mali's Timbuktu and Douentza regions, forcing nearly 1,800 families, mostly women and children, to flee their homes overnight.

Islamic Relief was one of the few organisations able to reach this remote area, providing 300 vulnerable families with food vouchers, shelter materials and essentials such as blankets and cooking utensils.

Families who had been surviving on one meal a day could now eat two or three, and women and children felt safer in improved shelters. By meeting urgent needs, the response helped families avoid desperate coping strategies like selling assets or marrying off daughters early.

Hope Amid Conflict in Eastern DRC

In North Kivu, brutal violence and mass displacement have left hundreds of thousands in urgent need of food, water, and protection. **Islamic Relief, working with local partners BIFERD and UPDDHE, provided 22 tonnes of food to 460 households, seeds and training for farming groups, and food packs for 329 families, most led by women.**

"More than 700,000 people have been displaced and some are now returning to their homes, but they have nothing to go home to," says Jonas Habimana, CEO of BIFERD. **"Islamic Relief's support has helped us to save lives, but the needs are still great."**

Despite insecurity, these projects brought both immediate relief and seeds of resilience; proof that local partnerships save lives even in the hardest-to-reach places.

Climate Disasters on the Rise

Beyond conflict, climate change is leaving a devastating mark. In Pakistan, sudden cloudbursts and melting glaciers triggered deadly floods from late June. India endured monsoon-driven flash floods, landslides, and glacial lake bursts. And in Albania, wildfires tore through forests and villages.

"Every day we see images of floods and wildfires on the news," says Mohammed Asfar, head of Islamic Relief's humanitarian department. "These aren't isolated incidents anymore. The frequency and intensity

of disasters are increasing, and with more people forced to live in high-risk zones, the needs are multiplying."

Pakistan Floods: A Crisis of Historic Proportions

Beginning in late June 2025, relentless monsoon rains have unleashed devastating floods and landslides across Pakistan. Entire villages have been submerged, with Punjab facing historic river flooding that displaced nearly half a million people.

Islamic Relief has been on the ground from the start; providing hot meals, clean water, shelter materials, and other essentials to families who have lost everything. More than 130,000 people have already received urgent support, and the response is expanding rapidly. In the coming months, Islamic Relief aims to reach 1 million families - around 7 million people - with lifesaving assistance, before supporting longer-term recovery and rehabilitation so that communities can rebuild with dignity.

In Yemen, heavy rains and flash floods left thousands homeless in August. With the banking system paralysed, Islamic Relief used non-traditional banking via financial institutions to transfer funds, ensuring that cash reached vulnerable families quickly.

"In many of the countries where we work, sanctions and fragile systems create major challenges," explains Mohammed Afsar. "But we always find safe and compliant ways to ensure support reaches those in need."

Looking Ahead

The challenges ahead are daunting: climate change, conflict, displacement, and shrinking aid budgets. Yet Islamic Relief remains committed to walking alongside affected communities and the local organisations serving them.

What remains constant, even in the hardest times, is the humanity at the heart of the work. As Mohammed Afsar concludes:

"What inspires me is the determination of our staff and partners. They are on the frontline of our response, they show us every day that even in the darkest moments, solidarity and compassion can find a way through."



Turning the tide in Puntland and Somaliland:

A future flowing with hope against the odds



Climate change, relentless droughts, overwhelming poverty – and now brutal international aid funding cuts – mean regions like Puntland and Somaliland face extremely challenging conditions. Water and waste systems are collapsing, while preventable diseases such as cholera are spreading fast. Women and children are paying the heaviest price.

“The consequences are visible every day – in children too malnourished to stand, in families with empty water containers, and in lives weakened by diseases that should never kill,” says Ahmed Jama, Islamic Relief’s Media and Communication Officer in Somalia. “Our work has never been more urgent.”

For generations, families and herders across Somalia have relied on livestock for survival. But an estimated 2.5 million people now live in areas classified as moderately or severely affected by drought.

Of these, 887,000 people in 16 districts are facing severe conditions, their lives upended by the failure of consecutive rainy seasons. Local reservoirs have dried up. Existing boreholes have broken down under pressure. Families have abandoned their homes in search of water and pasture for their animals.

Towers of hope in the desert

Amid this crisis, **Islamic Relief has delivered a lifeline. Rising above the dusty horizon of Burtinle is a newly constructed water tower that can be seen for miles. For the 10,000 people who now depend on it, this is more than infrastructure – it is hope made real.**

Equipped with solar-powered pumps, an extensive pipeline, and community kiosks, the borehole is transforming the lives of displaced families crammed into makeshift camps, as well as the vulnerable host communities.

In Somaliland’s Sahil region, a similar story of resilience unfolds. The recent widespread droughts have destroyed much of the livestock and family assets, and many rural communities have been forced to relocate.

Safiya, a mother of five from Beeyo-Gulaan village, saw her livelihood devastated. “Water was our biggest challenge as our animals perished due to lack of water; over 40 of my sheep and goats died,” she recounts.

Funded by Islamic Relief, the Sahil Borehole Drilling Project provides fresh drinkable water to approximately 6,000 people with its borehole, equipped with a solar-powered pumping system, water kiosk and animal troughs.

“Now we no longer worry about water. Each morning we only have to walk for 100 metres to fetch it,” says Safiya. **“Thanks to Islamic Relief, we have hope again and can look forward to a better tomorrow.”**

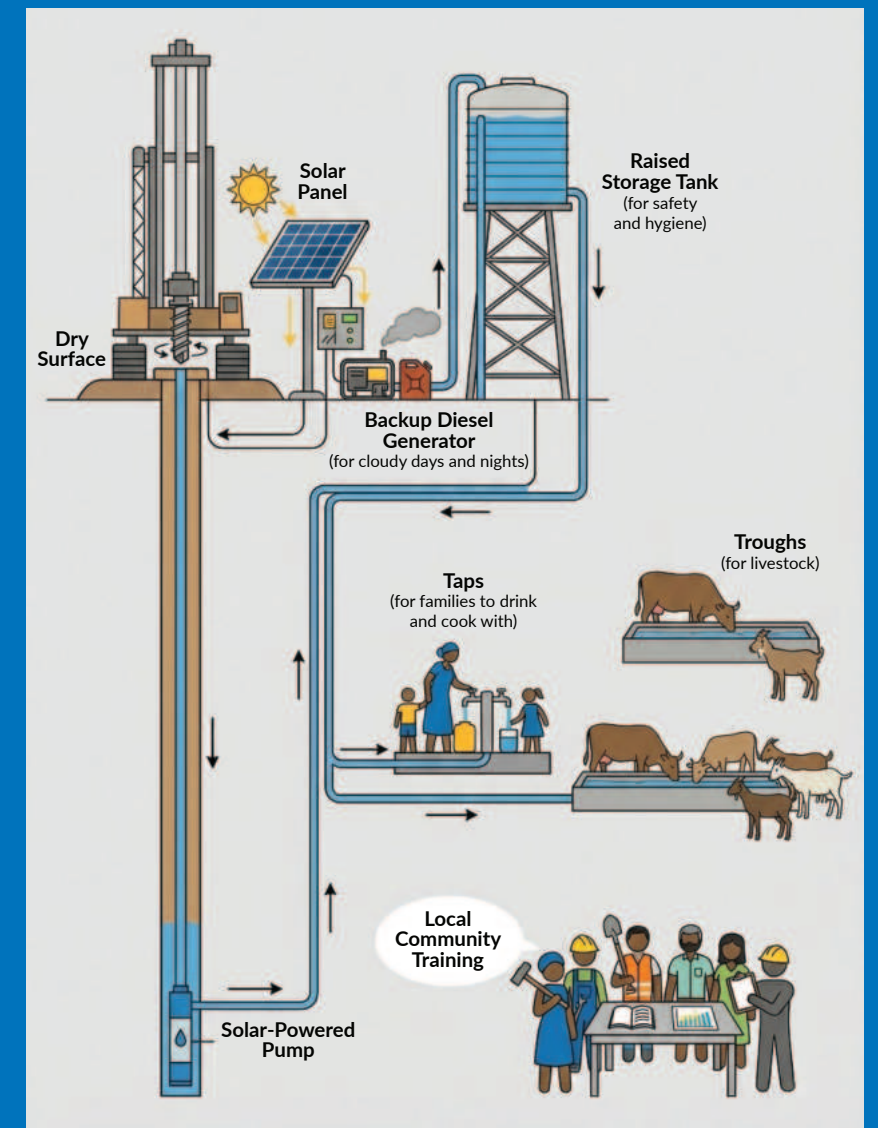
More than just water

More than just quenching thirst, these projects have:

- **Reduced disease:** With safe water close by, families can cook, wash and drink safely – dramatically lowering the risk of deadly outbreaks.
- **Restored dignity and safety:** Women and girls no longer make long, dangerous treks for water, giving them time for education and other opportunities.
- **Protected livelihoods:** New troughs for livestock mean herders can keep their animals alive, sustaining the community’s main source of income.
- **Built resilience:** Trained community-led water committees manage and maintain the borehole sites, ensuring they will last for generations.

How the borehole works

- Engineers drill deep into underground aquifers, far beneath the dry surface, to access clean and reliable water.
- A solar-powered pump lifts the water into a raised storage tank, high above the ground for safety and hygiene.
- From the tank, the water is channelled through pipelines to taps where families collect it for drinking and cooking, and to troughs for livestock.
- Backup diesel generators ensure water keeps flowing, even during cloudy days or at night.
- Local communities are trained in maintenance, water resource management, and conflict resolution so they can keep the system running for generations.



Healthier habits, healthier lives

Water is only part of the story; knowing how to use it safely is equally vital. **Islamic Relief has run hygiene awareness campaigns across displacement camps, with thousands of people learning life-saving practices such as handwashing, waste management, and how to stop the spread of chronic diseases.** The results have been remarkable. Families who once had little knowledge of hygiene are now regularly washing their hands, keeping their surroundings clean, and ending open defecation. **Small changes that are saving lives.**



Mothers and babies surviving against all odds in Gaza

For over 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza, childbirth has become a battle for survival. Malnourished, displaced and exhausted, many are forced to give birth without access to medical care.

Over two years of relentless Israeli bombardment have destroyed or rendered inoperative vast parts of Gaza's health infrastructure, leaving hospitals and clinics unable to function. At the same time, a continuing Israeli siege has blocked vital supplies of food, medicine and fuel, leaving expectant mothers without the essentials they need to stay healthy; let alone safely care for their newborns.

Gaza is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be pregnant. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that one in three pregnancies is now high-risk, and one in five newborns are born preterm or underweight, requiring specialist care that is increasingly unavailable. As of November 2025, only five hospitals in Gaza are still providing maternity services.

Maternal health on the brink

Hala's story is one among thousands. Without access to care, women face life-threatening complications such as haemorrhage, obstructed labour or miscarriage.

Doctors and nurses are also malnourished, yet many continue working around the clock, refusing to abandon their patients despite hunger, exhaustion, and the constant threat of bombardment.

UNFPA warns that almost 11,000 pregnant women are at risk of famine, and nearly 17,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women will need urgent treatment for acute malnutrition in the coming months.

In this environment, Islamic Relief has supported:

- 1,380 pregnant and lactating women through the Gaza Maternal Health Project, with a further 1,800 registered.
- The Children Not Numbers programme, providing essential maternal healthcare to more than 1,900 women, and supporting the safe delivery of more than 500 babies in the past year.

Each new life is a fragile symbol of hope – proof that even in Gaza's darkest hours, life endures.



Wider Medical Relief

The need in Gaza extends far beyond maternal care. Since October 2023, Islamic Relief has also supported:

1. Delivery of nearly 2.3 million medical items to health facilities.
2. Emergency care for more than 13,000 people at temporary medical points.
3. Three specialist medical convoys, carrying out over 800 consultations and 540 complex operations.
4. Water, sanitation and hygiene support reaching more than 70,000 displaced people across 67 shelters.

Giving Afghan children a future through education

In Afghanistan, insecurity, restrictions and ongoing economic instability continue to impact the right to learn. UNICEF estimates that more than 4 million children are out of school, nearly 60% of them girls.

Against this backdrop, Islamic Relief's education projects – such as Sweet Home School in Jalalabad – are not just providing lessons; they are safeguarding dignity, protecting childhood, and nurturing dreams of a better future.

The school, generously supported through Islamic Relief, educates 500 vulnerable children in a safe and protective environment. Remarkably, 95% are orphans, making the school a vital source of care and stability. Islamic Relief also provided school uniforms, shoes, schoolbooks and stationery.

Despite the challenges they face, 87% of students consistently achieve above-average scores; a testament to both their resilience and the quality of teaching. Orphans are supported until 18, though Islamic Relief extends sponsorship for those who pursue higher education or live with a disability.

Islamic Relief also supported 5,600 children and young people in Afghanistan last year through the Orphan Sponsorship Programme, ensuring that education remains within reach for the most vulnerable families.



Gulnisa - From shoe shiner to student

Once working as a shoe shiner to help her mother provide for their family, Gulnisa longed to study but was held back by poverty. Enrolled at Sweet Home School last year, she now beams with pride as she learns to read and draw.

"It was very dangerous to be on the street, but now I feel loved and cared for in this school. I'm so thankful to Islamic Relief and the people who support them."

Elias - Orphan finding family in education

Elias lost his father at a young age and struggled to imagine a future. For the past eight years, he has studied at Sweet Home School and is one of the school's top-performing students. Living in the school hostel, Elias receives food, accommodation, and emotional support.

"Before, I could not read or write. Now I'm in grade 7 and able to express myself in local languages and English. I want to become a doctor and serve my community."



Looking ahead

Islamic Relief's commitment goes beyond classrooms and ensures proper infrastructure maintenance, organises recreational and cultural activities, and works closely with government bodies. By covering teacher salaries, essential materials and supporting vulnerable children, donors' contributions directly impact the survival and future of hundreds of Afghan families.

The sacred rhythm of nourishment:

Food security as the beating heart of Islamic Relief

Food is at the heart of our faith. From caring for the Earth that produces it to eating with gratitude and restraint, Islam guides us at every stage. We are reminded that over-indulgence dulls the soul, while giving food away elevates it. Fasting in Ramadan and offering Qurbani at Eid al-Adha are practical forms of worship that bind communities and challenge the injustice of hunger.

For over 40 years, Islamic Relief has been privileged to channel this sacred trust into action.

Whether donors choose to provide food during Ramadan, give their Qurbani to families in need, or dedicate their Zakat or Fidyah to feeding the vulnerable, these acts of worship have become the beating rhythm of our humanitarian work.

They are among our most impactful initiatives, transforming faith into nourishment and hope for millions around the world.



Islamic Relief's very first project was a Ramadan food distribution in Sudan in 1984, marking the start of a journey that now reaches families in more than 30 countries every year. By the early 1990s, Qurbani distributions had also become central to our work.

Both programmes are grounded in traditions that remind us that food is a gift from Allah (SWT), and that giving it away honours the trust He (SWT) has placed upon us. Fasting helps us understand the pain of those who have limited access to food, while Qurbani reflects the willingness to sacrifice what is precious for the sake of others. These sacred rhythms connect us not only to Allah (SWT) but also to one another, reminding us that blessings multiply when they are shared.

Islamic Relief's Ramadan and Qurbani programmes have been a lifeline through some of the world's darkest moments. Our food parcels helped sustain besieged families during the war in Bosnia. We scaled up massively during the East Africa famine of 2011, when severe drought left over 13 million people in need of food aid. We responded to recurring droughts in 2012 that affected Niger, Mali, Chad, and Burkina Faso. Food parcels and Qurbani meat have nourished families in Gaza living under siege, and refugees displaced from Syria, Yemen and Sudan. Year after year, these programmes have adapted to global crises while staying true to their sacred origins: turning devotion into action, and worship into hope.

Families break their fasts with dignity, and communities are able to share in the joy of Eid. But the impact goes much deeper. By easing the burden of food costs during Ramadan and Eid, families are able to redirect scarce resources to other essentials like healthcare, education or livelihoods. Islamic Relief carefully sources food and livestock locally, supporting farmers, strengthening markets and reducing reliance on external supply chains.

Food parcels and fresh Qurbani meat are not just vital nutrition for those in need, they are symbols of solidarity. They remind families living through conflict, displacement or poverty that they are not forgotten, and that the global Muslim community stands with them. And as the climate crisis drives hunger to record levels, food parcels are increasingly designed with sustainability in mind, while our Quality-Assured Qurbani meat is sourced from local farmers in ways that reduce transport emissions and promote climate-resilient livelihoods.

How your donations changed lives in 2025

Conflict, climate change and inequality have driven millions into food insecurity and distanced us from the sacred rhythm of nourishment at the heart of our faith. **Islamic Relief's Ramadan and Qurbani programmes are more vital than ever.** Providing food is sometimes seen as a quick fix. But at Islamic Relief, we know the true extent of its impact. A food parcel means dignity, resilience, and hope – it embodies the faith-inspired action that has driven us for more than four decades.

Thanks to you, with the permission of Allah (SWT), nourishing meals were provided for over 840,000 people in 32 countries throughout Ramadan, and over 5.9 million people received fresh meat in 29 countries during Dhul Hijjah.

When we deprive ourselves, we learn empathy; when we share our food, we live justice; and when we give from what we love, we spread hope.

Delivering life-saving health care in conflict zones

In countries torn apart by conflict, hospitals and clinics are often destroyed, health workers are killed or forced to flee – and at the same time, families face soaring malnutrition as fighting disrupts livelihoods and food supplies. This double burden leaves fragile health services overwhelmed just as communities need them most.

In Syria and Yemen, Islamic Relief is working to bridge these gaps, supporting health facilities and helping to provide food.

Rebuilding Syria – Islamic Relief in it for the long haul

After more than a decade of civil war, Islamic Relief remains committed to supporting the people of Syria as communities continue the long journey towards recovery and rebuilding.

The scale of destruction across the country remains immense. Entire towns and neighbourhoods have been reduced to rubble, with homes, schools and essential infrastructure devastated by years of conflict. Countless families continue to live with the lasting effects of displacement and loss.

Yet, amid the destruction, stories of resilience continue to emerge.

Families are rebuilding their homes within damaged structures, restoring a sense of dignity with whatever resources they have available. Small businesses are reopening, and communities are gradually rebuilding their lives despite the enormous challenges they continue to face. These powerful moments reflect the determination and resilience of the Syrian people.

Islamic Relief remains committed to standing alongside communities in Syria, supporting both immediate humanitarian needs and the long-term recovery efforts needed to help families rebuild their futures with hope and dignity.



Supporting vital healthcare facilities

Many international organisations have reduced or ended their operations in Syria, but Islamic Relief continues to provide essential healthcare services that would otherwise be unavailable.

This includes operating the Islamic Relief Cardiac Surgery Centre, the only specialist heart surgery centre in northern Syria, and supporting the National Syrian Project for Prosthetic Limbs.

The prosthetics programme uses innovative 3D printing technology to produce prosthetic limbs in just five hours at a fraction of traditional costs. It provides life-changing support to people living with conflict-related injuries, particularly children injured by landmines and explosive remnants of war, while also supplying replacement limbs for children with congenital conditions as they grow.

Following airstrikes in 2024, the Cardiac Surgery Centre was rebuilt and is now training five new cardiologists to strengthen local healthcare capacity. Between 2024 and 2025, the Centre performed 76 life-saving heart surgeries free of charge for patients who otherwise could not afford treatment.

By investing in specialist healthcare, medical training and innovative rehabilitation, Islamic Relief is helping restore dignity, hope and resilience as communities rebuild after years of conflict.

Yemen: Delivering against the odds

Years of conflict and economic collapse continue to place Yemen's healthcare system under immense strain. Nearly 17 million people face acute food insecurity, while millions of children and mothers remain at risk of malnutrition.

This work is made possible through support for frontline health workers, the provision of medicines and essential medical equipment, functioning referral systems for severe cases, and community outreach that helps vulnerable families in hard-to-reach areas access life-saving care.

These services remain a vital lifeline for communities facing one of the world's longest-running humanitarian crises. By strengthening local health systems while responding to urgent needs, Islamic Relief continues protecting lives, improving access to healthcare, and helping communities build greater resilience for the future.

Providing education in crisis zones in Türkiye and Bangladesh

Shabel Firuz, Head of Orphans and Child Welfare, reflects proudly on how Islamic Relief is helping children in Bangladesh and Türkiye reclaim their right to education, even in the toughest conditions.

Education transforms lives, giving children not only knowledge, but confidence, dignity and the chance to dream of a better future. Wherever crisis strikes, whether through conflict or natural disaster, education is often the first casualty. Yet it is also one of the strongest foundations for recovery.



Providing hope where there is little – Bangladesh

Bhasan Char, a remote island off the coast of Bangladesh, is not an easy place to live. Once uninhabited, it now shelters more than 35,000 Rohingya refugees relocated from the crowded camps of Cox's Bazar. Most fled Myanmar in 2017 in the wake of a brutal military operation.

Life here is shaped by isolation, the constant threat of cyclones and floods, and limited opportunities for education or work. But amid these hardships, Islamic Relief is transforming lives through education, skills and inclusion.

From just two schools in 2022, Islamic Relief now operates 11 in partnership with UNICEF, providing primary education to 3,720 children and, for the first time, secondary classes for 114 students. Another 620 younger children attend early childhood centres, where they learn through play and build the foundations of wellbeing.



A future beyond housework

Noor, 12, is the eldest of four siblings. Before a school opened near her home, she believed her role in life was to stay at home and help her parents with chores.

Thanks to the encouragement of teachers and her parents' growing support, Noor began attending school regularly. Her reading and writing improved quickly, and safeguarding sessions helped her build confidence and learn about her rights. Today, she also tutors her younger siblings at home. **Noor is living proof that when barriers are broken down for girls, we nurture future leaders.**



Inclusion makes the difference

The project places great emphasis on inclusion. Teachers are trained to support children with disabilities, and six specialist volunteers work one-to-one with 54 pupils.

Among them is Tashiya, 12, who is blind. With dedicated support, she can now navigate the classroom, follow lessons from the blackboard and take part in group activities. **Once shy and withdrawn, she has become an inspiration to her classmates. Her transformation shows what is possible when every child is given the chance to participate fully in education.**



Skills for survival and self-reliance

The project also equips young people with practical skills – tailoring, plumbing, electrical repair and computer skills.

Khaleda, 18, joined a three-month sewing course and learnt how to stitch, measure and cut fabric. Today she makes clothes for her family and neighbours and contributes to the household income.

"I dream of opening my own tailoring shop one day," she said. "I want to be self-reliant, to support my family, and to help other girls believe in themselves."



Healing through learning and play

Recognising the trauma many refugee children carry, we also place strong emphasis on wellbeing. Recreational activities, cultural events and parent engagement help children rebuild confidence and joy. In 2025, 88 percent of students advanced to the next grade, a clear sign of the progress being made.

The schools have become a lifeline for thousands of Rohingya children, nurturing dignity, resilience and ambition, and showing that even in the hardest places, hope can take root.



Rebuilding education in Türkiye

In February 2023, southern Türkiye was devastated by two powerful earthquakes. Islamic Relief teams rushed to respond – delivering food, blankets, medical supplies and vouchers, clearing debris, repairing water systems, and providing outreach teams, focusing on women and children.

Kahramanmaraş, the epicentre, lost more than 80 schools and saw another 117 severely damaged. Nearly 30,000 children were left without a safe classroom.

Thanks to your generosity, Islamic Relief is building two new earthquake-resistant primary schools in the Dulkadiroğlu district. Together, the schools will serve 453 students, 18 teachers and two support staff.

From Bangladesh to Türkiye, these projects show that education is not just about classrooms or books. It is about restoring childhoods, building resilience and opening futures. Wherever children face crisis, your support is helping them not only to learn but to hope again.

Your impact across South Africa

Because of your support, we were able to reach over 150,000 people locally!

Islamic Relief South Africa (IRSA) is committed to advancing sustainable development and humanitarian action that empowers vulnerable communities to realise their full potential. Guided by our Islamic faith, we work to address some of South Africa's most pressing challenges, including **poverty, food insecurity, unemployment, inequality, limited access to quality education, inadequate water and sanitation services, health disparities, and child vulnerability.**

In 2025, IRSA continued to strengthen its systems, partnerships, and programme delivery mechanisms while implementing a diverse portfolio of humanitarian and development initiatives across South Africa, with selected interventions extending into Lesotho and Zimbabwe.

Through integrated programming, we worked in the following sectors:

- 1. Food Security and Nutrition
- 2. Education and Skills Development
- 3. Sustainable Livelihoods
- 4. Water, Sanitation and Healthcare
- 5. Disaster Response



During the year, **IRSA invested R48.46 million in domestic programming, reaching 153,866 people** through multi-sectoral interventions designed to meet immediate humanitarian needs while fostering self-reliance and sustainable development.

Working alongside government departments, academic institutions, civil society organisations, volunteers, faith leaders, and more than **45 implementing partners**, IRSA continues to champion locally driven solutions that promote dignity, resilience, and lasting impact.

Rooted in the values of sincerity, compassion, excellence, social justice, and custodianship, Islamic Relief South Africa remains dedicated to delivering accountable, impactful, and community-centred interventions that contribute to a more equitable, resilient, and hopeful future for all.

Nourishing communities through food security

Food insecurity remains one of South Africa's most pressing challenges, affecting millions of households facing economic hardship, rising food costs, unemployment, and climate-related shocks. In 2025, **Islamic Relief South Africa continued to prioritise food security and nutrition as a critical component of its humanitarian and development response**, delivering immediate assistance while contributing to longer-term community resilience.



Qurbani 2025

During Qurbani 2025, IRSA continued its annual Qurbani programme across vulnerable communities, ensuring that families had access to nutritious meat. Through collaboration with implementing partners, meat was distributed to households experiencing food insecurity, while also fulfilling the spirit of compassion and generosity associated with the sacred season.

Because of your support, we were able to reach **8,864 direct beneficiaries**, indirectly benefiting an estimated **12,420 people**. In 2025, the programme was also expanded into **Limpopo Province**, strengthening local partnerships and extending support to vulnerable households in new communities.

Ramadan 2025

During Ramadan 2025, IRSA implemented their annual Ramadan food distribution programme, reaching **30,462 people across South Africa, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe.**

In partnership with local organisations and implementing partners, **6,750 food parcels** were distributed in South Africa, **1,250 food parcels** in Zimbabwe, and **1,095 food parcels** in Lesotho, providing households with essential and nutritious food items.

Because of your support, vulnerable families were able to observe Ramadan with dignity.



Beyond seasonal assistance: Supporting nutrition throughout the year

Beyond Ramadan and Qurbani, **a new nutrition initiative in Zimbabwe supported rural and peri-urban communities across 64 sites**, providing culturally appropriate food assistance while stimulating local economic activity. The project sourced **425 goats from local farmers**, benefiting approximately **1,275 people** and engaging **65 imams and community leaders** to ensure assistance reached those most in need.

Food security support was further strengthened through the **Orphan Sponsorship Programme (OSP)**, where **609 orphaned children and their families** received food vouchers, helping to alleviate household financial pressures, improve access to nutritious food, and contribute to the wellbeing of children and caregivers.

Investing in the leaders of tomorrow

The Rehabilitation of Thandokwethu Primary School

Built many years ago by members of the Dududu community to provide local children with access to education, **Thandokwethu Primary School** had fallen into severe disrepair by 2022, with learners and educators facing hazardous asbestos roofing, flooding classrooms, inadequate sanitation facilities, and limited access to clean water.

In response, Islamic Relief undertook a comprehensive rehabilitation project to restore the school and create a safe and conducive learning environment. **The intervention included extensive classroom renovations, improvements to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, the establishment of a library, and the installation of a sustainable borehole that now provides clean water to both the school and more than 2,000 people in the surrounding Dududu community.**

Nurturing youth to reach their full potential

The Goal Getters Project was implemented to adopt a holistic approach to learner development - supporting academic achievement alongside social and emotional wellbeing, physical health, financial literacy, personal growth, and spiritual development.

In 2025, the programme reached **177 learners - 88 girls and 89 boys from Grades 1 to 7** at the **Osizweni Community Care Centre**, equipping them with the skills, confidence, and support needed to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

An important component of the programme was engaging the adults who shape learners' lives. During 2025, capacity-building workshops were held for parents, guardians, and mentors to strengthen their understanding of the Goal Getters approach and reinforce its values at home. The workshops also fostered greater collaboration and shared ownership between IRSA, The Leadership College, Osizweni Community Care Centre, and the wider school community. **A total of 430 participants attended workshops in the Western Cape, while 17 mentors and 147 parents participated in Gauteng**, reflecting a strong commitment to supporting learners through a collaborative and nurturing environment.

Because of your support, we were able to provide:

1. Education and child wellbeing programmes to 924 learners and caregivers
2. Academic and leadership support to 177 students
3. A conducive learning environment to 118 students through the rehabilitation of Thandokwethu Primary School
4. Holistic care to 609 orphaned children through our Orphan Sponsorship Programme



Caring for orphaned children in South Africa

Through the **Orphan Sponsorship Programme (OSP)**, recognised as one of IRSA's flagship child welfare initiatives, **more than 600 orphaned and vulnerable children across Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Western Cape received holistic support in 2025.** This included access to nutritious food, healthcare, psychosocial services, educational assistance, and safer, more nurturing environments.

During the year, **609 orphaned children and their families** benefited from food vouchers, helping to alleviate financial pressures and improve household food security. To support children's wellbeing and development, **338 home visits** and annual progress reviews were conducted, while **262 children and caregivers** received health assessments and medical screenings.

Recognising the critical role caregivers play in a child's development, IRSA also invested in strengthening parenting capacities. A total of **111 parents** and guardians participated in workshops in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape, focusing on trauma, loss, online safety, emotional wellbeing, and positive parenting practices. These sessions equipped caregivers with practical tools to better support children's resilience, development, and overall wellbeing.



Committed to protecting those we serve

Safeguarding remained a cross-cutting priority across all IRSA programmes in 2025, ensuring that children, vulnerable adults, and at-risk individuals could access support within safe, respectful, and accountable environments.

Throughout the year, IRSA continued strengthening safeguarding systems and practices across its interventions, promoting a culture of prevention, awareness, and accountability. Through survivor-centred approaches that prioritise safety, dignity, confidentiality, and wellbeing, the organisation responded effectively to protection concerns while reinforcing safe spaces for programme participants and communities.

In 2025, **489 people were reached through protection and safeguarding interventions**, while **17 safeguarding cases** were managed through established reporting and response mechanisms, ensuring appropriate support and follow-up in line with IRSA's safeguarding commitments and standards.

Empowering women and youth towards self-reliance

Economic empowerment is essential to building resilient communities and breaking cycles of poverty. In 2025, IRSA invested in sustainable livelihood initiatives that equipped women and young people with practical skills, entrepreneurial knowledge, and resources to improve their income potential and create sustainable pathways towards self-reliance.

Through targeted training, business incubation, prototype development, and mentorship opportunities, **443 women and youth were supported through livelihoods and entrepreneurship initiatives**, strengthening their ability to participate meaningfully in local economies.



Cultivating skills and opportunities

IRSA's **Women's Empowerment Initiative** focused on building sustainable livelihoods through agricultural training, business development, and enterprise incubation in the **Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal**. Women participating in the programme attended boot camps, received practical crop production training, and were introduced to climate-smart agricultural techniques aimed at improving food security and increasing income-generating opportunities.

Participants successfully implemented permaculture systems, developed business plans, and explored viable agricultural enterprises. As part of their skills development journey, **the women also completed accredited training and received certification** following six months of intensive learning designed to enhance employability, strengthen entrepreneurial capacity, and build household resilience. The programme further supported translating newly acquired skills into sustainable economic opportunities through business registration and ongoing enterprise development support.

Turning ideas into enterprises

IRSA's **Youth Empowerment programme** focused on entrepreneurship training, incubation, and prototype development to help young people transform innovative ideas into viable businesses.

In 2025, **10 youth groups** actively participated in training and incubation activities, with many progressing towards the acceleration stage of enterprise development. Participants received practical support, equipment, and materials tailored to their business concepts, enabling them to strengthen operations and expand their capabilities.

Initiatives supported during the year included **Glamour Garage**, a sewing enterprise specialising in school uniforms and traditional attire; **Mazwemvelo Services**, a poultry farming initiative promoting food security and income generation; **NexTech**, a creative enterprise focused on photography and graphic design; and **South Sweet Spot**, a small-scale baking business.



Preventing disaster through risk interventions



Through the **Early Warning System Project**, implemented in the **Masiphumelele informal settlement in Cape Town** and funded by the **First National Bank Trust**, and in collaboration with **Lumkani**, IRSA worked to mitigate the devastating impact of fires within one of the city's most vulnerable communities, impacting the lives of **7,312 people**.

In partnership with local stakeholders, **heat detectors were installed in 1,000 households**, enhancing early warning capabilities and improving household safety. The project also distributed **180 fireballs, 958 emergency bags, and 2,000 fire safety educational materials**, while **10 community members** were trained in firefighting and first aid.

Expanding healthcare in underserved communities

In 2025, IRSA reached **3,296 people through health interventions**, improving access to essential healthcare services, oral health support, and community wellbeing initiatives.

This included our collaboration with the **University of the Western Cape (UWC) Faculty of Dentistry and Tygerberg Hospital**, which supported the operation of a mobile dental clinic to bring essential oral healthcare directly to underserved communities.

By removing barriers such as distance, transport costs, and long waiting times, the clinic enabled vulnerable individuals to access free, quality dental services close to home.



Through this initiative:

1. Over 1,651 patients received dental treatment, including cleanings, fillings, extractions, and preventative care
2. 480 people received oral hygiene education sessions promoting healthy practices and preventative care
3. 279 elderly patients were provided with dentures
4. 13 schools benefited from on-site dental outreach services

Providing clean water and sanitation

Access to clean water, safe sanitation facilities, and good hygiene practices is fundamental to community wellbeing and resilience. Because of your support in 2025, we were able to reach **6,289 people through Water, Sanitation and Hygiene interventions**, improving access to essential services and contributing to healthier and more resilient communities.

Through the **Rural Access to New Opportunities for Water and Food (RANOWF) Project**, IRSA rehabilitated **19 boreholes** and drilled **8 new boreholes** across nine district municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal, reaching 37,650 people - improving access to clean water for schools, orphaned children, community centres, places of worship, and surrounding communities.

To promote long-term sustainability, local committees, educators, and community leaders also received training in borehole maintenance and water management. IRSA also conducted community hygiene awareness sessions and distributed essential hygiene materials to strengthen healthy practices at household and community levels.



Additionally, through the **Education Cannot Wait Project**, IRSA further invested in safer learning environments by supporting the construction of gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive sanitation facilities at Thandokwethu Primary School, helping to enhance dignity, safety, and accessibility for learners and educators alike.

Together, these interventions contributed to **improved health outcomes, better hygiene practices, and strengthened community wellbeing**.



Islamic Relief South Africa

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