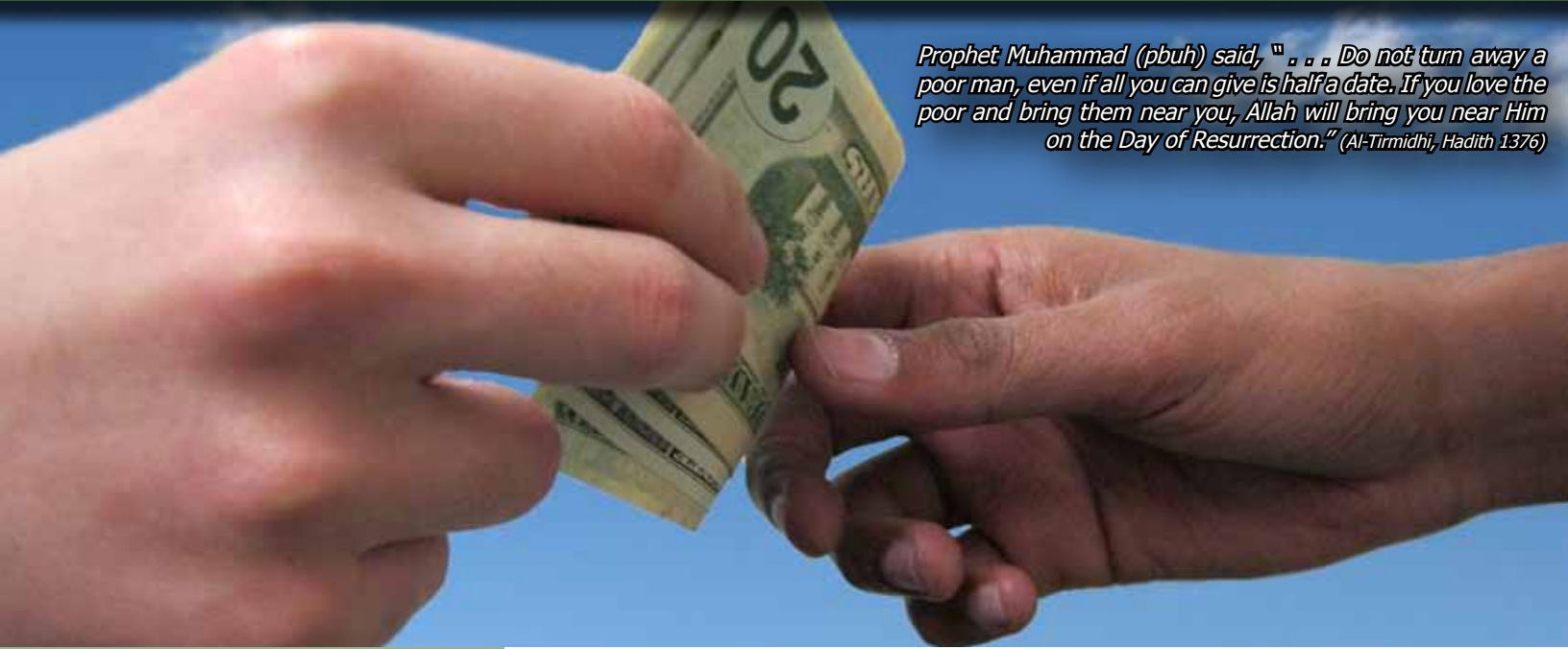




Hidaya Foundation

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Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, " . . . Do not turn away a poor man, even if all you can give is half a date. If you love the poor and bring them near you, Allah will bring you near Him on the Day of Resurrection." (Al-Tirmidhi, Hadith 1376)

Newsletter Ramadan 1436/2015

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Putting Things in Perspective: Why We Should Love the Poor

It is known that the first followers of the Prophets were always the poor, the sick, and the weak. While society has always shunned such people, it was always Allah's Mercy who honored them by making them the first to believe and support His Messengers. Today more than ever, the poor, and weak are looked down upon as a burden to society while the rich and powerful are looked up to. What we need to understand is that everything comes from Allah, who is Al-Ghani (The Rich), and all that matters in His eyes is a person's faith and character. For those of us whom Allah, Al-Wahhab (The Bestower) has granted bounty - those less fortunate than ourselves offer us a chance of gaining rewards and increasing our status with Allah if we help them. The following are a few reminders for us to reflect on from the Quran and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in regards to the subject of those less fortunate than ourselves, and giving to them.

The True Status of A Person is in Their Character and Faith:

We should not hold the wealthy and high status people of society above the poor and weak, as we do not know what status anybody has with Allah (SWT). Allah highlighted this lesson for us in Surah Abasa: "The Prophet frowned and turned away, Because there came to him the blind man, [interrupting]. But what would make you perceive, [O Muhammad], that perhaps he might be purified, Or be reminded and the remembrance would benefit him? As for he who thinks himself without need, To him you give attention. And not upon you [is any blame] if he will not be purified. But as for he who came to you striving [for knowledge] While he fears [Allah], From him you are distracted. No! Indeed, these verses are a reminder; So whoever wills may remember it." [Al-Qur'an, 80: 1-12]

Allah is the Source of Our Wealth:

We must constantly remind ourselves that Allah (SWT) is the one that gave us all that we have in the first place.

The Prophet (pbuh) said: Hands are of three types: Allah's hand is the upper one; the bestower's hand is the one near it; the beggar's hand is the lower one. So bestow what is surplus, and do not submit yourself to the demand of your soul. (Sunan Abi Dawud 1649)

On Being Humble and Thankful:

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: "Look at those who are beneath you and do not look at those who are above you, for it is more suitable that you should not consider as less the blessing of Allah." (Sunan Ibn Majah, Vol 5, Book 37, Hadith 4142)

Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said, "Richness is not having many belongings, but richness is the richness of the soul (contentment)." (Sahih Muslim Vol. 2, Book 501 #2287)

Why We Should Love the Poor

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself loved the poor so much he made the following prayer, followed by golden advise: "O Allah, grant me life as a poor man, cause me to die as a poor man and resurrect me in the company of the poor." His wife asked him why he said that, and he replied: "Because (the poor) will enter Paradise (before) the rich. Do not turn away a poor man, even if all you can give is half a date. If you love the poor and bring them near you, Allah will bring you near Him on the Day of Resurrection." (Al-Tirmidhi, Hadith 1376)

May Allah, Al-Hadi (The Guide), make us love whom He loves, and guide us to the actions that will be most pleasing to Him. ♦

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One Million Meals - Hidaya Helps Poor Farmers by Driving Up Market Prices

It seems that poor farmers in Pakistan just can't catch a break. Most of the time they can barely make ends meet due to paying rent on the land they farm on, and add to that the almost yearly flooding outbreaks that destroy their crops leaving them with nothing. This year, it was actually an abundance in productivity combined with weakness in the international market, and lack of exports which drove the prices of rice paddy down by half.

The struggling farmers were in a panic, as big buyers (knowing the market condition) were low-balling them. For example, super kernal basmati paddy, was being purchased at 900 Rupees for 40 kg, instead of last year's price of 1,800 - 2,400 Rupees for the same amount. Understanding the condition of the farmers and what was happening to them, Hidaya decided to stockpile and purchase a large amount of rice paddy this year at a higher price than the going rate in support of them to help drive prices up.

Between December 2014 and March 2015 - Hidaya bought over 2,800 tons (2,800,000 kg) of rice paddy for our yearly distribution, about 7 times more than our usual amount. We purchased at an average price of about 1,100 Rupees per 40 kg, successfully driving up the market value of rice paddy, and big buyers were forced to pay higher prices, thus not allowing them to break the backs of poor farmers.

Alhamdulillah, this was a win-win situation for the poor, as the poor farmers were able to make a profit on their yield, and the larger purchase has meant more food distribution to benefit more poor people. ♦



Help for a Severely Neglected Region - Over 27,000 People Reached



One of the poorest regions of Pakistan is located on the border area where Shahdadt District meets Balochistan Province. This area is home to extremely poor people who have been seemingly forgotten about and neglected for generations. Through some acquaintance in law enforcement, our team was able to reach this area for the first time, as it is a very remote and dangerous area due to kidnappings. The area has no water sources, no agriculture, no hospitals, no business opportunities, and people are living in tents or huts. In one instance, our survey team even found 80 year old women breaking apart rocks with hammers to sell to builders just to arrange for food for themselves.

Over several weeks in the early months of this year, Hidaya's "One Village at a Time" team was able to do a detailed registration of **over 4,500 families** in several villages of the region, including how many people were in each family, and what each individual's situation was.

By April, the registration process, was completed, and just in time as the recently purchased rice paddy had been processed and prepared into dry ration food packages. A large portion of the dry ration packages was prepared and **70 truckloads** of supplies were taken and distributed in the villages of this region. *Each truck held about 6 tons of load, meaning a total of 420 tons of supplies were distributed to the poor of the area.*

More than **27,000 individuals** were given a dry ration package including: 20 kg basmati rice, 2 kg cooking shortening ghee, 5 kg lentils, 12 soaps for bathing, 12 soaps for washing. Additionally, each family was given: 1 quilt, few ladies dresses (unstitched), 1 child dress, 1 mat made from date palm leaves.

In total **approximately \$900,000** was spent on this initial effort to reach these people of extreme poverty, with more to come insha'Allah. ♦

Support Hidaya Schools - Raising a Generation

One of the main contributors to poverty in economically depressed areas of the world is a lack of education. Pakistan is no exception, as it is not uncommon to go to villages and find generations of people who do not know how to read or write. In order to combat this situation, Hidaya has focused a lot of its efforts on educating the poor along side of helping them with basic necessities of life. It is our intention that through education (especially of the youth) a generation of bright young minds can bring about a positive change in society insha'Allah.

Hidaya is currently operating **71 schools** with over **8,500 students** from 1st to 8th grade under the Support Hidaya Schools project.

Activities taking place under this project include:

- Hidaya identifies villages where there are no schools or the schools have been shut down (ghost schools).
- After community meetings, Hidaya hires teachers locally (residing within a couple of kilometers) and trains them with theoretical curriculum as well as on-the-job training in classrooms.
- Due to poverty, students, can not afford tuition, therefore Hidaya provides all of their books, notebooks, and other school supplies under Support Poor Students project.
- Hidaya provides all classroom needs, such as fans, lights, mats (floor seating arrangements). Furniture and classroom equipment is at times given as well from the Container Shipment for In-Kind Donations project.
- To attract students and to avoid drop-out, every month Hidaya distributes ration to each family whose children are in attendance of our schools via the One Million Meals project. The dry ration package includes one of the following each month i.e. rice, lentils, tea, cooking oil, bathing and laundry soap, dates, sugar, etc. Additionally, every 3rd month, meat is given to the students from the Sadaqah Sacrifice and Aqiqah projects.
- Children are also provided with medical support if needed via the Medical Assistance project
- Water Hand Pumps are provided to families of students in case they do not have that via the Clean Drinking Water project.
- Library books are provided to students from a mobile library which visits the school every two weeks.
- Children whose fathers have passed away are given support via the Widow/Orphan Support and No Orphan without Education projects.
- Hidaya sponsors extracurricular activities such as tree plantations via the One Million Trees project.

It costs about \$160 to run a classroom of approximately 40 students for each month. ♦



Ongoing Support for Orphans & Widows

"Aisha (raa) narrated that, "The most beloved action to Allah's Apostle (pbuh) was that whose doer did it continuously and regularly." (Bukhari #8.76.469)

Hidaya is supporting over 10,000 orphans and nearly 5,000 widows with a total of over \$300,000 worth of assistance every month. under the following 2 projects:

No Orphan without Education Project - Each orphan is given equivalent of about \$10 per month (\$120 for a year) towards their education.

Widow/Orphan Support Project - Each widow is given equivalent of about \$40 per month (\$480 for a year) for all her household expenses.

Cots for Orphans: Due to poverty, the majority of orphans we support sleep on the floor in climates that have extremely hot and cold weather. Understanding their condition, Hidaya has set-out to provide a cot for each orphan that we support. So far, nearly 3,500 cots have been distributed to the homes of the orphans and widows we serve, with more being made to continue with this effort. *It costs approximately \$40 for each cot, please donate to give comfort to an orphan. ♦*



Hidaya's 2014 Accomplishments



Clean Drinking Water - Water Hand Pump



One Million Meals - Dry Ration Distribution



Support Hidaya Schools



Sadaqah Sacrifice - Meat Distribution



One Million Trees - Seedling and Information Distribution

No Orphan without Education: Supported over 10,000 orphans each month

Support Hidaya Schools: By year end, was operating 65 schools with nearly 7,000 students from KG – 5th grade

Adult Education: Educated nearly 700 illiterate adults to an 8th grade level

Support Poor Students: Supported nearly 7,000 students each month

Job Skills Training: Trained over 300 students in sewing and more at Hidaya's Houses of Knowledge.

Hidaya Institute of Science & Technology (HIST): Educated hundreds of students in basic computer skills, Software Development, System Administration Training, and Network Administration Training

Hidaya Institute of Farming & Agriculture (HIFA): Educated dozens of young adults in ways of cultivating the land, growing vegetables, taking care of date palm trees and mango orchards at Hidaya Garden

Disaster Relief: Provided aid for people suffering from Pakistan Floods, Burma Humanitarian Crisis, Syria Humanitarian Crisis, and West Africa Ebola Outbreak

Widow/Orphan Support: Supported nearly 5,000 widows each month

Marriage Support: Helped 724 young women with their marriages

Container Shipment for In-Kind Donations: Sent 7 forty ft. containers with relief supplies to Pakistan, worth nearly \$100,000

One Million Meals: Distributed over 32,000 dry ration packages to families - enough for over 1.5 million meals throughout 7 countries

Sadaqat-ul-Fitr: Distributed over 1,100 dry ration packages to families, benefiting over 6,600 individuals

Fidya: Distributed over 3,020 dry ration packages to families, benefiting over 18,100 individuals

Kaffara: Distributed over 680 dry ration packages to families, benefiting over 4,000 individuals

Sadaqah Sacrifice: Sacrificed over 1,500 goats and 230 oxen and distributed the meat to benefit over 25,500 families

Aqiqah: Sacrificed 194 goats on behalf of donors' new born children and distributed meat to benefit over 2,400 families

Qurbani: Arranged 6,018 shares of Qurbani on behalf of our donors (5,082 cow shares, 936 goats) and distributed the meat to over 50,000 poor families throughout 9 countries

Animal Farming: Supported 2,179 families by giving them farm animals

Medical Assistance: Arranged for 767 examinations and treatments for patients in need

Medical Camps: Held 159 medical camps and treated over 12,700 poor patients

One Million Trees: Planted over 75,600 seedlings

Green Energy: Installed solar panels at 2 Hidaya Trust offices in Pakistan reducing electricity costs and ensuring smooth operation during frequent power outages.

Clean Drinking Water: Installed nearly 1,700 water hand pumps which benefited over 10,000 people, and distributed over 3 million liters of water via water tanker benefiting tens of thousands of families ♦

Donation Form



Hidaya Foundation is a non-profit 501(C)(3) charitable organization with US Tax ID # 77-0502583.

Name _____
 Email _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

Zakat (Obligatory Charity)
 Fidya (\$3.50 per missed day of fasting)
 Sadaqat-ul-Fitr (\$7.00 per person)

Other : _____ \$ _____
 Other : _____ \$ _____
 Other : _____ \$ _____
 Total \$ _____

Zakat

You may sign up for **Automatic Recurring Donation** or **Quick Donations** towards any of our projects on our secure website at: www.hidaya.org/createprofile
 Double your donation with **Corporate Gift Matching**. Contact us if you need help setting it up at your organization.

Name on the card: _____

Card No: _____

Expiry Date: (mm/yy) _____

Independent Auditor's Report for Fiscal Year 2014

With the Blessings of Allah, on Feb. 10, 2015, Hidaya Foundation successfully completed its 2014 financial audit. A copy of the audited financial statements (as well as previous year statements) are available for review at: www.hidaya.org/financials ♦

Board of Directors

Adeel Ahmed (Dallas, TX), Mazhar Uddin (Dayton, NJ), Irfan Baloch (Geneva, Switzerland), Mohamed S. Shamsuddin (Santa Clara, CA), Waseem Baloch (Santa Clara, CA)