

Qurbani

Waqf Report

2004



Profits from the Qurbani Waqf for the year 2003 went towards distributing Qurbani meats to the needy in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, in Pakistan.

Qurbani is the sacrifice of a healthy animal during the Islamic month of Dhul Hijjah. The meat is then distributed amongst the poor, many of whom cannot ordinarily afford to eat meat. The tradition of Qurbani commemorates the story of the prophet Abraham who was asked by God to sacrifice his son Ismail to prove his devotion. At the last minute a ram was substituted and, since that time, Muslims annually mark the occasion by sacrificing a cow, goat or sheep. Islamic Relief (IR) performs Qurbani on behalf of thousands of people and distributes the meat to areas where the need is greatest. At a cost of almost \$3 million, hundreds of thousands of people benefit annually. Since 1993, Islamic Relief has also used canning facilities in certain countries to ensure that the meat lasts longer and can be delivered to those living in unstable or remote areas.

Islamic Relief in Pakistan

IR established its office in Islamabad, Pakistan in 1992. Its activities are focused in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Balochistan where there are two field offices.

IR has successfully implemented many relief and development projects including drought relief in Balochistan, disaster response (earthquakes, droughts, cyclones, floods), Orphan Support, Prevention of Blindness programmes, and Education Enhancement Programmes.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)

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Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) represent the part of Kashmir which is not under Indian Occupation and is governed through Pakistan. Total population of AJK is estimated to be 2.726 million. The adult literacy rate stands at 43% and almost 90% of the population live in rural areas. Land holdings are relatively small and therefore, agricultural production is insufficient for meeting household requirements. Industrial output is almost negligible. Agricultural produce and other consumer items have to be brought from Punjab Province and other parts of Pakistan.



Project Activities

The Qurbani programme (distribution of meat) is a key seasonal activity for IR and the biggest single programme within the organisation. IR started this programme in 1986 with 670 Qurbanis and in Feb 2000, it covered 19 countries, providing 29,324 Qurbanis with a total budget of \$912,969. For some people in these poorest countries on the globe, this is perhaps the only occasion when they eat meat.

In Pakistan, Islamic Relief has been implementing Qurbani Programmes since its inception in 1992. Baluchistan, North West Frontier Province (N.W.F.P) and AJK were selected for the 2004 Qurbani Programme. Almost the same methodology was followed in all the selected areas. The lists of beneficiaries were made with the consultation of respective local organisation. Coupons were issued mentioning date, time and place of distribution. Meat Packets were distributed according to the serial numbers on the coupons.

The beneficiaries were very happy and grateful to Islamic Relief for their efforts in reaching the most difficult areas in terms of accessibility and in very difficult weather conditions.

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Qurbani programme in the Neelum and Jhelum region went quite well despite the difficult weather conditions. The animals were locally slaughtered, thereby fresh meat was provided to ensure that the poorest people could enjoy the Eid celebration. The volunteers of the local NGO's worked really hard to make the programme successful. Local people appreciated the efforts of IR. The programme helped in increasing the income of the people as well.

Summary:

Table of qurbani meat distribution in Azad Jammu and Kashmir:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Total cows purchased: | 105 |
| Total No. of families benefitted: | 7385 |
| Received meat/ per family: | 3 Kg |
| Total No. of beneficiaries: | 51,659 |

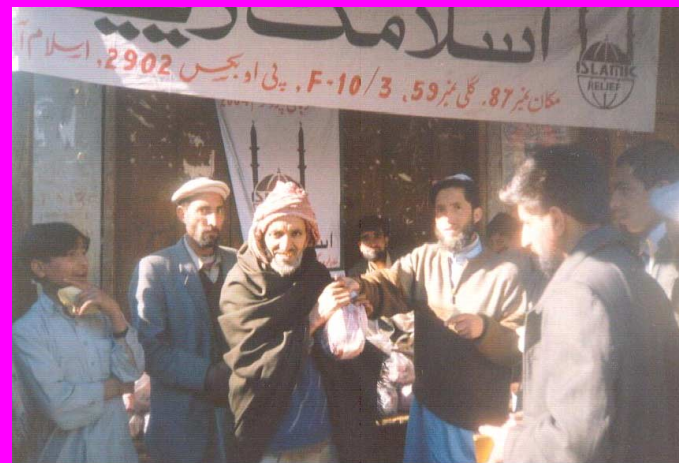
Problems with water in Bagh

A large part of AJK is hilly and mountainous and this is particularly the case of the Bagh district. Water (drinking & agricultural) is available in abundance through natural sources; however, this natural resource has not been properly utilised due to lack of means to do so. Mountain springs are the main source of drinking water in this area. These springs are quite often situated a long distance from the village. Fetching water from the spring is a back breaking and laborious task especially for the girls and women who have to undergo this task on a regular basis.

Warfare: Disaster preparedness

The disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir has led to two wars between Pakistan and India since their independence in 1947. This has affected the lives of countless thousands of people on both sides of the Jammu and Kashmir divide. 1998 saw an increase in cross border firing which saw Islamic Relief become the leading NGO working to alleviate the suffering of the vulnerable people in the area.

Due to the continuing displacements of vulnerable populations in the area, an Islamic Relief Disaster Preparedness Centre was set up in June 2000 in order to provide assistance to communities that were being displaced. The centre initially provided tents which were available to be utilised in the scenario of increased cross border firing and mass population displacement.



Islamic Relief wishes to thank all those who participated in its Waqf Future Fund project. May Allah SWT bless this effort to alleviate the suffering of the world's poorest people.

