

# Letter From the CEO

2023 has been a year of unprecedented challenges for the world. For millions of people, life will never be the same. Many have felt the tragic force of war and conflict, climate-related or natural disasters, economic decline and more.

Since 1984, Islamic Relief has worked diligently to be among the first to respond when disaster strikes and 2023 was no different for us. Our teams on the ground experienced extraordinary back-to-back catastrophes in Pakistan, East Africa, Türkiye and Syria, Sudan, Morocco, Libya, Afghanistan and Palestine. And you showed unwavering support for our work – allowing us to do more and reach more people in crisis.

Our teams met the needs of those who desperately needed your support, because of your outstanding generosity, care and dedication to children, the elderly, women, and men facing what has been unfathomable levels of disaster last year.

You have journeyed with us through a year of catastrophe by making sacrifice after sacrifice for your brothers and sisters around the world, and we couldn't be more grateful to you for allowing us to carry out this crucial work for those who have nowhere to turn to but to Allah and their Ummah

Last year, you helped us improve the lives of over 11.1 million people through access to life-changing health and medical care, quality education, safe water and sanitation, and livelihood and skills development opportunities, and you helped bring urgent relief to over 1.7 million people through our emergency appeals, Alhamdulillah.

As we proudly celebrate 40 years of saving and transforming lives, and advocating for justice, we reflect on all the unbelievable milestones you have helped make possible for Islamic Relief, and ultimately for the people we serve. Your impact on Islamic Relief in 2023 and on the people who matter most - our rightsholders - forms part of a legacy you have helped to build over 40 incredible years, that has transformed the lives of over 120 million people since the organisation began.

We have no intention of slowing down our ground-breaking relief and sustainability work, and that's all because of you – our loyal and outstanding donors - whose unwavering support for genuinely impactful work motivates every one of us to keep doing what we do.

We are once again pleased to share the 2023 Impact Report with you, to provide you with the opportunity to explore the impact you've had on communities across the world.

Jazakum Allahu khayran and a heartfelt thank you for your ongoing trust and support. May Allah allow us to continue working on your behalf to save and transform lives - Ameen.



Ul

Samir Bennegadi CEO, Islamic Relief Australia



We supported over

#### 11.1 million

rightsholders in total across 30 countries in 2023



Our emergency responses reached over

1.7 million

million rightsholders in 2023

# YOUR IMPACT ACROSS THE WORLD

We believe in projects that make



# a real difference

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Over

#### 1.3 million

rightsholders reached through 56 projects

Food Security and Livelihoods

Over

#### 1.7 million

rightsholders reached through 66 projects

Sustainable Development

Over

119,000

lives improved through projects

Health and Nutrition

over 2 million

rightsholders reached through 54 projects

**Education** 

Over

212,000

rightsholders reached through 40 projects

Winterisation

Over

157,000

rightsholders reached through 27 projects

\*Information provided is accurate as of the date of publishing this report and are subject to change. Information provided is representative of targeted rightsholders for the entirety of a project that was live in 2023 regardless of whether the project began before or during 2023 and was completed/will complete during or after 2023.

# Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

#### Clean Water for Communities

#### • Lebanon

Lebanon is in the midst of an ongoing and debilitating socio-economic crisis that has left more than **80 per cent of the entire population** living under the poverty line. The aftermath of the 2020 Beirut explosion and the rising cost of living across the world have also deepened the poverty crisis for many households, and access to safe, clean water has become one of the direct issues in the region.

With your support, Islamic Relief teams have been able to directly benefit some of the most vulnerable individuals and families across villages in Akkar Governate, North Lebanon.

# Your generous donations

have helped experts to install a solar power plant to operate, rehabilitate and upgrade three non-functioning water schemes, providing quality, reliable and equitable water access to a staggering 12,000 people, **Subhan'Allah**.

In addition, our teams on the ground are distributing personal hygiene kits and conducting awareness sessions for 500 individuals to help prevent the spread of disease as they navigate the crisis.





Your support is deeply appreciated to help us achieve this dream project.

During the summer, there was not a single drop of rainwater and so this was a dream project for everyone living here. It is a basic right for everyone to receive clean, safe water and this community is grateful that they can now have water too.

- Country Director, Lebanon



## **Food Security**

# Essential Sustenance During Food Insecurity

#### Al Hadi

In the world's poorest and most devasted areas, food insecurity remains a looming threat. Years of ongoing war and worsening natural disasters have left millions facing terrible living conditions, harsh winters and a lack of local infrastructure.

Many households in these countries also lack access to the refrigeration and storage needed to preserve frozen meat distributed to them by most food aid programs, leaving them little choice but to consume it all in one meal to avoid spoilage or waste.

Your generosity has helped Islamic Relief Australia partner with Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to launch the Al Hadi Project, providing non-perishable meat to 140,000 people in two countries whose populations are in dire need of food assistance.

Alhamdulillah, with your support, Islamic Relief's food programs like Al Hadi continues to provide essential nutrients to families and communities in need, while also helping them improve overall nutritional health.



# Children and Orphans

#### **Restoring Homes for Families in Need**

#### Indonesia

Climate change has left Indonesia's population more vulnerable to natural disasters, devastating millions of lives. Among them, orphan families are hit the hardest.

#### Opportunities or access to support is often extremely limited.

Around 4.5 million orphan families, over 90% of whom live under the poverty line, are in dire need of infrastructure support for their homes, which are continuously damaged during earthquakes, floods and tsunamis.

Our teams in Indonesia are helping build habitable, safe and robust houses for orphan and needy families in areas prone to disasters. These projects aim to improve wellbeing and reduce vulnerability for these families, alleviating their suffering for future disasters.

#### Thanks to your support.

19 families in need are receiving stable houses with:



**Bedrooms** 



Living rooms



Latrines



Reinforced Infrastructure



Furniture



Bedding





# Protection and Education

# Clean Water and Better Infrastructures for Schools

#### Pakistan

Climate change, social vulnerability and high rates of poverty in Pakistan have left its population facing significant challenges, especially in the education sector.

Many schools have insufficient and deteriorating WASH infrastructure, often plagued by inadequate maintenance and insufficient funding. This significantly impacts the health and safety of the school students, especially for girls, and affects their education and attendance.

At Islamic Relief, we know that education can help communities break free from the poverty cycle, opening doors to skills and opportunities that lead to a brighter future. Our teams are rehabilitating and improving WASH services in schools, ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment for both local and Afghan refugee children.





#### Livelihoods

# Restoring Dignity Through Livelihoods Opportunities

#### **9** Nigeria

Over 8.4 million people in North-East Nigeria grapple with extreme poverty, malnutrition and displacement. Activities of non-state armed groups (NSAG) have worsened the already dire situation, disrupting economic growth and social development.

Islamic Relief Australia, partnered with Australia for UNHCR, are providing assistance and protection interventions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria, addressing the lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities available for these communities.

Your donations have helped over 1,100 people build sustainable livelihoods. With your donations, our teams have been able to distribute essential relief items such as dignity kits for women and girls, agricultural, livestock and fishery kits, and business start-up kits for entrepreneurs.

Your support continues to empower victims of conflict with safety nets, enabling them to meet their and their family's needs and support the growth of local businesses and their youth.





Your support has made a critical difference to communities facing these urgent challenges in Nigeria.



1,141 will now have access to increased food security, livelihood opportunities and safe, clean water as a result of your donations!

### **Health and Nutrition**

#### A Vital Lifeline for Vulnerable Families

#### Yemen

Yemen is suffering from one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Against the backdrop of a civil war that has ravaged the country since 2014, more than eight years of escalating violence has taken the lives of tens of thousands more civilians and left over 21 million people grappling with widespread poverty, displacement, disease, economic decline and more.

Islamic Relief teams on the ground are providing emergency lifesaving and livelihood support to 9,450 people from the most vulnerable families (including orphans' families) in the Amanat Al-Asimah and Aden governates.

Your support has enabled our teams to continue to work diligently to ensure that those affected by the ongoing crisis have dignified and equitable access to essential food and non-food items through cash assistance.

In addition, your donations have gone one step further by opening the doors to financial independence as well as food security, as our teams have also helped support families start small-scale business enterprises.



The situation is extremely dire.



# Climate Change

# Championing Childrens Rights and Sustainability

Islamic Relief Australia is working together with UNICEF Australia to mitigate the impact of climate change. This goal is an extension of the objectives for our existing partnership implementing Integrated Early Childhood Development in the Pacific region.

We were invited by UNICEF to attend the "Champions for Children: Child Rights at the Heart of the SDGs" event at the UN General Assembly (UNGA), held in New York. We recommitted ourselves to supporting and implementing projects that underpin the achievement of the SDGs relating to Child's Rights and Climate Change, to which Dr Ihab Saad signed the commitment on behalf of Islamic Relief.





# Refugees and Displaced People

#### **Providing Urgent Medical** Care to Communities

#### Jordan

Since 2011, Jordan has provided refuge to more than 1.36 million Syrians fleeing the ongoing crisis in Syria. Across the areas of Amman, Al Mafraq, Irbid and Zarqa, many vulnerable individuals and families are suffering from poor health due to injuries and trauma caused by the war, the spread of disease, mass displacement, and a lack of livelihood opportunities. Now, there is an increased demand on healthcare facilities to cater for the refugee population where the infrastructure is not fully equipped to deal with the influx of those in need.

Islamic Relief has been on the ground supporting Syrian refugees since the onset of the crisis, with a focus on providing healthcare to those in need.

Our teams have also supported the community by equipping 5,000 people in need with improved knowledge and skills through awareness sessions on health topics, as well as health and hygiene kits to help prevent the spread of disease.



### Thanks to your support,

Islamic Relief has provided approximately 5,000 children, women, men, older persons, and persons with disabilities with primary health care by providing a fixed health clinic located in Al Mafrag.



# Long-Term Recovery

One Year on From the Devastating Floods

#### Pakistan

In 2022, catastrophic floods sank one-third of the total area of Pakistan. Tragically, **over 1,700 people lost their lives in the disaster and a staggering 33 million people across the region were impacted.** The devastation caused by the floods was unfathomable, as **2 million homes were destroyed, displacing 7.9 million vulnerable people.** 

Islamic Relief has been on the ground since the onset of the disaster providing immediate and ongoing relief as part of our commitment to recovery efforts that extend far beyond the immediate aftermath of the floods.

Just over one year on from the catastrophe, your support has enabled Islamic Relief teams on the ground to transform the future of those who lost everything in the floods.

Each home is built with flood and earthquake-resilient measures in mind and meets practical and cultural requirements in terms of living space, a kitchen area and bathroom.





#### Recovery After Cianjur Earthquake

#### **9** Indonesia

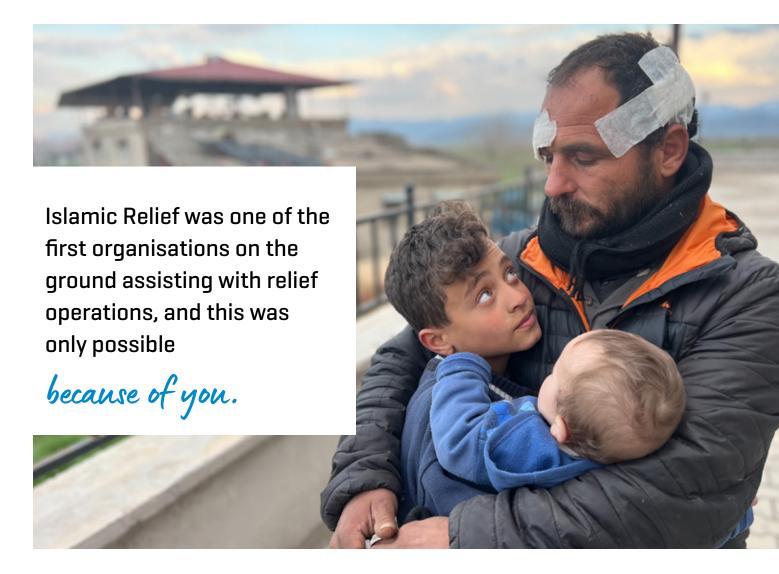
A **5.6 magnitude earthquake hit** Cianjur District, West Java Province on Monday, November 21st, 2022, causing widespread damage, particularly to houses and WASH facilities.

Islamic Relief teams on the ground delivered a rapid response to the crisis and continues to provide for those in need within the region, supporting 503 people.

We are constructing 10 shelters, repairing WASH and latrine facilities, and creating cash for work opportunities. These services are crucial in the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases for disaster-struck regions and remain ongoing as our teams remain dedicated to helping rebuild lives in Indonesia.



# TÜRKIYE-SYRIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE



On Monday 6th February 2023, the world witnessed utter destruction as two 7.8 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes struck the regions of southeast Türkiye (Turkey) and north-west Syria. Over 51,000 people tragically lost their lives and approximately 30 million people in total were impacted by the disaster.

Your rapid response to our Türkiye-Syria earthquake appeal meant that we could turn your donations into life-saving medical equipment, food, clean water, and shelter for those affected more rapidly than most other organisations present.

Islamic Relief collaborated with long-standing local partners and organisations on the ground to ensure a comprehensive and effective response for those facing crisis.

You made relief possible for survivors of the earthquakes, both throughout the crisis and in the aftermath.



#### **Building Homes for Earthquake** Affected Families in North-West **Syria**

After the earthquake, 1.1 million individuals were affected by the earthquake and in need of shelter assistance. The catastrophe only added to the suffering of the people of north-west Syria (NWS) by creating an additional gap in shelter assistance. During the first month following the earthquake, 108,906 individuals were displaced in NWS in addition to 17,517 returning from Türkiye. These individuals added to the 2.74 million already internally displaced people in NWS out of which 800,000 are living in tents.

With your support,
Islamic Relief has secured land and is



supervising the construction of homes and providing 100 shelters and 1,677 essential non-food items to 906 families affected by the earthquake and living in tents.

So far you have helped provide lifesaving aid to: 96,920 families in Syria



408.431 Medical Items



5,279 Mattresses



8.150 Blankets



5,878 Shelter Kits



16 Diaper Kits for the Elderly



597 Baby items including Diapers, Childrens Kits



129 Tents



469,230Kg Heating Material



141,836 Bread Packs



5.417.000 Litres of Water



305 Fireplaces



4,994 cubic metres of Rubble Removal



43 Latrines



#### So far you have helped provide lifesaving aid to:

#### 41,104 families in Türkiye



4.905 Food Packs

Including: Rice, Bulgar, Sugar, Water, Cakes, Juice, Olive Oil, Sunflower Oil, Dates, Tomato Paste



159,107 Food Items

Including: Water, Cakes, Juice, Dates



4,050 Blankets



15.000 Food Vouchers



5,500 Hygiene Kits



# PALESTINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE







Islamic Relief launched an emergency appeal after the escalation on 7th October, and

# because of your support

we were able to rapidly mobilise relief items from our warehouses in the region, where we have stockpiled resources in the event of a crisis.

Your continued and unwavering support for those affected by the crisis has enabled us to continue delivering aid, essential food packs, medical aid and clean water to Palestinians who have been blocked from access to basic survival items.

on the ground is being felt by Gazans whose lives have been saved by daily, essential meals, hygiene items and more.

#### So far Islamic Relief teams on the ground have distributed:



2,274,000 Medical Items



997,010 Hot Meals



399,600 People Have Received Ready-to-Eat Items



85,020 People Have Received Food Parcels



25,470 People Have Received Food Vouchers



71,598 People Have Received Non-Food Items



16,404 People Have Received Clean Water



256,056 People Have Received Hygiene Kits



47,485 Children Have Received Psychosocial Support



8,700 Orphan Sponsorships

# EAST AFRICA EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A severe drought in East Africa is causing one of the deadliest humanitarian crises in the world. Over 20 million people are now facing severe food shortages as a result of the worst drought in 40 years, the hardest hit regions being Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

# Reliable Water Source For Sanag Region in Puntland

#### Somalia

Water scarcity in Badhan district is destroying people's livelihoods and displacing thousands of pastoralists from their homes in a desperate bid to source clean water and livelihood stability.

# With your incredible support

Islamic Relief teams in Puntland drilled a new borehole providing 7,000 people with clean, safe water!

With a 330 metre depth, the borehole provides 388,000 litres of water per day to the community. The water system also includes a 20 cubic metre elevated water tank, animal troughs as well as a solar-powered system to use cost-effective and environmentally friendly power, **Subhan'Allah!** 



Families could not send their children to school as they would all be going early morning to look for water in other villages. Sometimes the water would be unclean and they would fall very ill.

Alhamdulillah now, with the new borehole, the school is full! The community is starting to thrive because they have a water source!

Abdi Rashid, Islamic Relief Programme Technician, Somalia





# SUDAN **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

Since 15th April 2023, armed clashes across the capital city of Khartoum in Sudan, as well as the Darfur and Kordofan provinces have caused chaos in the region. 5.8 million people have been displaced due to the violence and the crisis has left approximately 15 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity. A staggering 24.7 million people in total are now in need of humanitarian aid.

From the outset of the crisis, you have supported Islamic Relief teams on the ground in providing vital humanitarian assistance to 559,132 people!

## Your generous donations

have helped provide cash assistance to 1,550 people who have been displaced by the conflict, ensuring they can purchase food, medicine, clothing they need and more.



our teams support a staggering 100,000 farmers on the ground who have lost their livelihoods as part of our commitment to rebuilding lives struck by disaster.









# AFGHANISTAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Decades of protracted conflict, political instability, economic decline, and natural disasters have deepened the levels of poverty, malnutrition, and the collapse of basic services in Afghanistan. Against the backdrop of the worst drought in 27 years and the recent 6.3, 6.4 and 4.7 magnitude earthquakes in October 2023, the situation on the ground is unbearable, and your support has been critical in providing humanitarian assistance to those facing desperate circumstances.

You have helped our teams on the ground provide lifesaving cash assistance to 945 people struggling with poverty, enabling them to buy food, warm materials and clothing they need and more.



# MOROCCO EMERGENCY RESPONSE

On 8th September 2023, a devastating earthquake with a magnitude of 6.8 struck the High Atlas region in Morocco, taking the lives of over 3,000 people and injuring 5,700 in the provinces and municipalities of al-Haouz, Marrakesh, Ouarzazate, Azilal, Chichaoua and Taroudant. A staggering 500,000 people experienced internal displacement as a result of the earthquake. They live in constance fear as landslides remain a threat in the wake of the disaster.

# Your generous donations

have helped our teams provide cash assistance to 4,112 people, ensuring they can purchase the food, warm materials and medicine they need and more. Thank you.





# Orphan & Family Sponsorship

Across the world, more than 50 per cent of all people living in extreme poverty are children.

At Islamic Relief, our commitment to alleviating poverty begins with giving children the best start in life! At Islamic Relief we aim to provide children with their fundamental rights to safety, access to health and medical care and a high-quality education.

Since 1986, you have helped us on our mission to improve the lives and futures of orphan children, by supporting a staggering 87,163 orphans across 26 countries through our Orphan Sponsorship Programme! You have transformed the futures of so many who had nowhere else to turn.



Your support impacts children like Suhaib, whose mother wasn't able to afford his medical expenses alongside the daily cost of living until the generosity of one donor changed their lives.

# Meet Aisha & Suhaib

My name is Aisha; I live in Sudan. I have five children, three of them are now sponsored. I used to struggle with rent and basic needs before the sponsorship as everything is expensive in Sudan, like medical care - my son is sick, and he needs special care.

However, after the sponsorship, I managed my spending between medical expenses and everyday needs. Alhamdullilah, it is going well, and my living situation has improved!

I hope to see my children well educated. Education is the most important thing and I hope they become doctors and engineers. I hope Suhaib gets better and walks properly. This is my biggest wish.





# Your Impact in Ramadan and Eid

#### Your Impact During Ramadan

Last year, during the sacred month of Ramadan, your staggering generosity enabled 912,026 people struggling with poverty to access food to break their fast with ease, **Subhan'Allah!** 

With the permission of Allah,

#### you helped provide

those in need with nutritious meals and 3,011 food packs to break their fast throughout the sacred month, with each pack containing ingredients to create culturally appropriate meals in over 31 countries!



Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

# "Give gifts to one another, you will love each other."

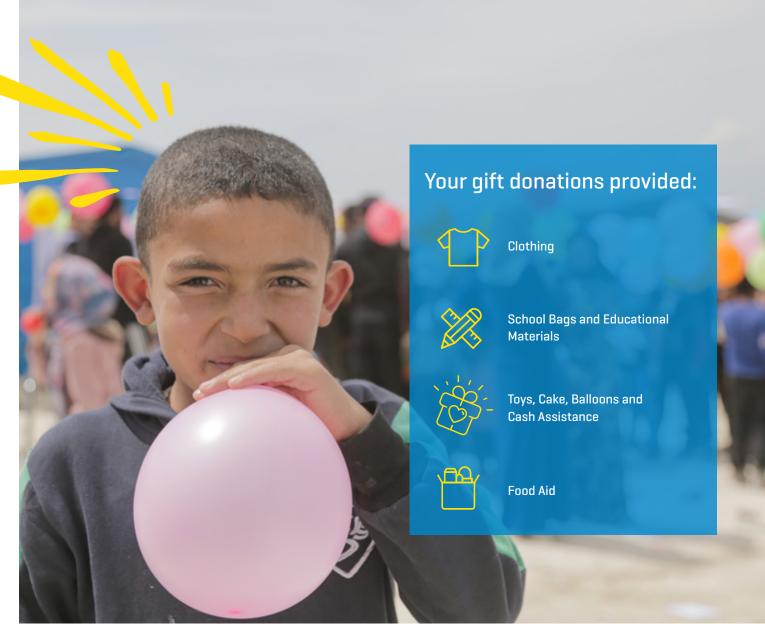
Hadith | al-Adab, al-Mufrad



Through our Eid al-Adha Gifts Programme, you supplied a staggering 30,342 children across 18 countries with Eid gifts ranging from new clothes and educational supplies to toys, sweets, and cakes, **Subhan'Allah!** 

Thank you for sharing the joy of Eid last year!





# Did you know?

Last Ramadan,

you gave 49,783 children and orphans across 17 countries,

an opportunity to share in the festivities of Eid al-Fitr by donating amazing Eid gifts as part of Islamic Relief's annual Eid al-Fitr Gift Programme - Alhamdullilah!



# Your Qurbani Donations

# Last year, your Qurbani donations reached an astounding 3.43 million people around the world, Subhan'Allah!

Your Qurbani was carefully selected and carried out by our offices across 28 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and over 607,402 high-quality meat packs were distributed to families in need as a result.

Each year, generous donors such as yourself make the decision to offer your Qurbani for the sake of Allah and provide it to those who do not have the means to offer Qurbani themselves.

This sacred act is made even more precious because of your generosity.

# thank you

for transforming Eid al-Adha for a family in need with your Qurbani donation last year!



3,434,579 Rightsholders Reached



4,460 Qurbanis Carried Out



Every 1kg of your Qurbani was able to feed three people, **Subhan'Allah!** 









Your Help at Home

The global economic crisis has hit some of Australia's poorest communities the hardest. Increasing numbers of people are sleeping rough, refugee and asylum-seeking communities are facing compounding challenges and thousands of families are battling a debilitating rise in living costs.

Islamic Relief is continuing to support as many people as possible across Australia through four key areas of work to help improve the life and wellbeing of thousands of people in need.



8,830 Rightsholders Reached





In 2023,

#### Gaza to Australia

**Supporting Gaza Refugees** 

Refugees from Gaza, seeking safety in Australia, face immense hardships navigating cultural differences, overcoming language barriers, and managing rising living costs.

That's why our "Gaza to Australia" initiative aims to lifeline to refugees, providing the financial aid and emotional support they need to start their new, safe and stable life here in Australia.

# In the Community

In 2023, you showed up in spectacular fashion to support causes close to all of our hearts. Throughout the year, we had the privilege of working with incredible partners up and down the country to do vital work in their communities, to raise money for Islamic Relief. **We want to thank all of you** in the community who hosted an event, got sponsored for the challenge of a lifetime, marched through cities and more, to create more positive impact in the world.

thank you!

#### Realising a Transformative Vision

We are working with a number of Mosques to provide social support that is responsive to community needs. In 2023, we supported the construction of Ummul Qura Masjid, helping provide much-needed facilities to Muslims in east Perth.





# Empowering Education

Education is a core focus of our development programs at Islamic Relief. In 2023, we continued our support of the Crescent Awards, a platform dedicated to showcasing and celebrating the exceptional contributions and dedication of educators, educational teams, leaders, administrators, and Muslim learners across various educational settings in Australia.



