



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



ZAKAT
FOUNDATION
of AMERICA

The Leader in Empowering Lives Through Zakat

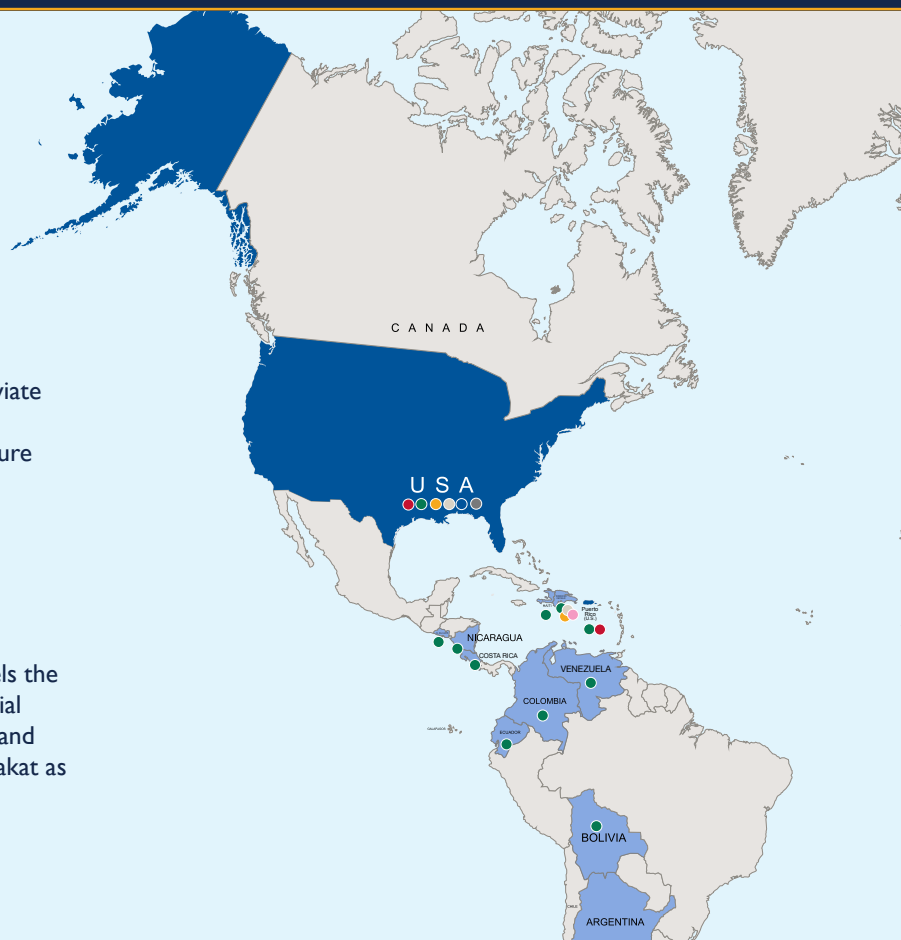


MISSION

Zakat Foundation of America fosters giving to alleviate the immediate needs of poor communities and to establish long-term development projects that ensure individual and community growth.

VISION

Zakat Foundation of America is unique among humanitarian organizations in advancing zakat as a vehicle for social change. Zakat Foundation channels the egalitarian spirit of zakat into a global vision of social development that transcends national boundaries, and stands as the foremost authority on interpreting zakat as a factor for positive change.



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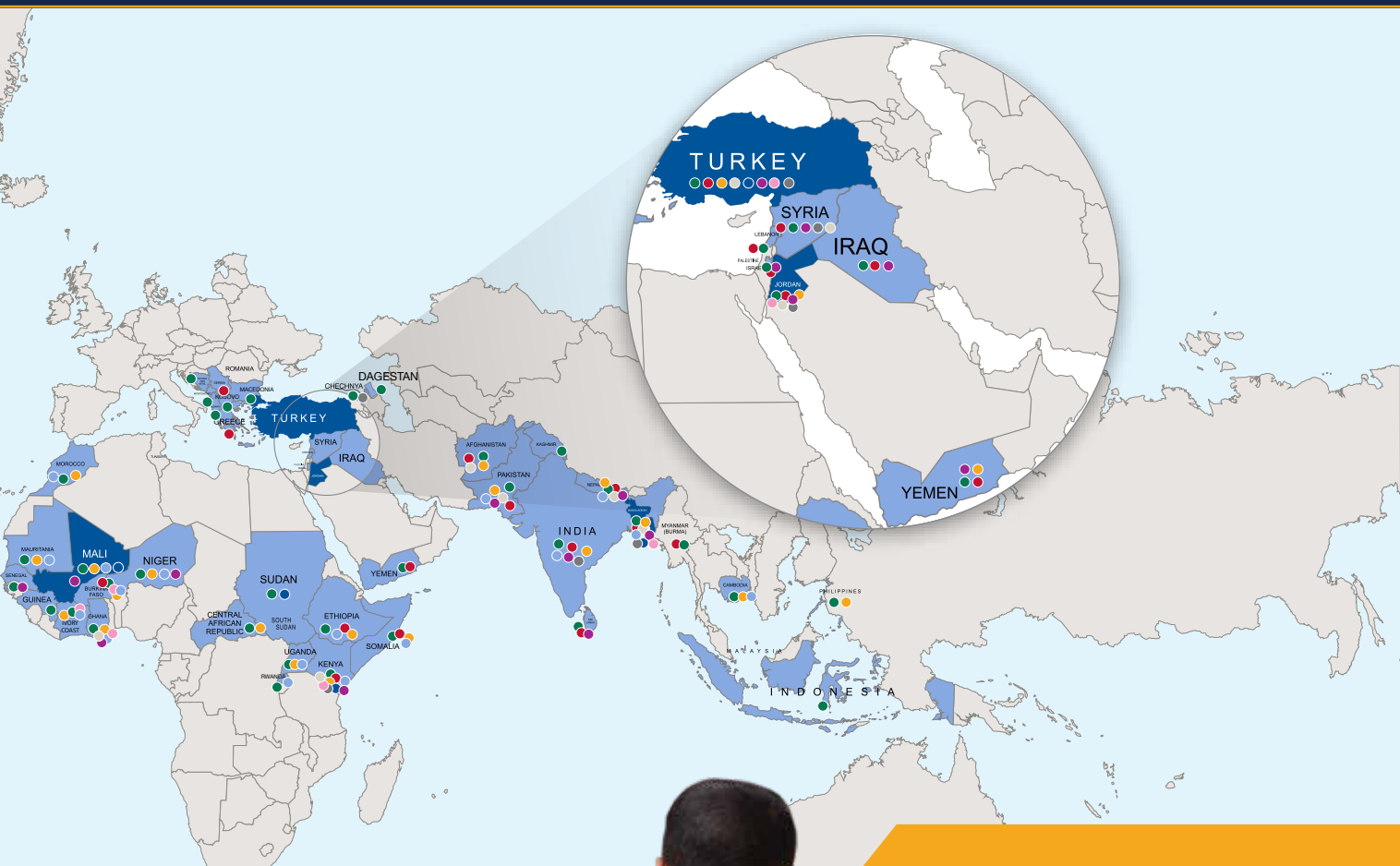
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“ **Poverty has no religion.** ”

Halil Demir
Executive Director



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Dearest friends, sisters and brothers,

As salaamu alaykum, peace be unto you!

By God's grace, we have completed one more fiscal year together. In the following pages, you are going to witness how many lives we touched — and changed — thanks to God almighty and your continued support.

You will read how your *zakat* reached the people of Kashmir, Syria and North Carolina during their times of emergency, but also how you have helped uplift thousands from poverty.

Neither Yemen's farmers nor families in Gaza who received aid for greenhouses will need to depend on anyone for food in the future. Indeed, our livestock recipients in Kenya have now become givers rather than receivers in just a short time.

It is unfortunate that we cannot say "mission accomplished," as our hope that the world will be a better place than last year did not realize itself. Man-made disaster and violence continues in Afghanistan, India, Kashmir, Myanmar and Yemen. At the moment, a million Syrian refugees are waiting at the Turkish-Syrian border for safety. In India, public lynching of Muslims is ongoing. The global refugee crisis has only intensified.



Executive Director Halil Demir celebrates 10 years of impacting lives with locals, widows and orphans singing and dancing in the streets.
KENYA

People may be in denial, but it does not change the fact that global warming is a real threat to the world. Wildfires in Australia and California showed us how much impact a fire's destruction will have on human and animal lives. When billions of insects and animals die, there will surely be consequences for the environment, so we have to expect not only fire, but other disasters such as heavy rain and tsunamis. These will bring serious challenges to humanity, and we must be aware and alert.

I would like to conclude with good news, though. In the coming days, to show our gratitude and our reach, we will offer the opportunity to our beloved donors to join us for service trips to our program and project sites. The saying goes that bad news is what makes headlines, not the good news. But good news happens often, and I promise you will witness this by God's grace.

Peace, love and gratitude!



Halil Demir

OUR PARTNERS

- **ANERA**, American Near East Refugee Aid
- **ARISE** Chicago
- **C&SN**, Charity and Security Network
- Chicago Youth Centers
- Chicago Theological Seminary
- Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America
- Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago
- Episcopal Relief & Development
- Family Promise of Delaware
- Feed the Children
- First Defense Legal Aid
- Heshima Kenya / RefuSHE
- Indiana University Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy
- InterAction
- **IOM**, International Organization for Migration
- **IRC**, International Rescue Committee
- Islamic Relief
- Jewish Voice for Peace
- **MGUH**, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
- Mercy Corps
- **PCRF**, Palestine Children's Relief Fund
- Ronald McDonald House
- Stanford University, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Muslim Mental Health Lab
- **UNICEF**, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- **UNHCR**, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- **UNRWA**, United Nations Relief & Works Agency
- USA for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Relief Agency
- Upwardly Global
- What If Foundation

A dramatic photograph of a wooden gazebo on a pier being hit by a massive, crashing wave. The water is turbulent and white with foam, splashing high into the air. The sky is dark and overcast. The gazebo has a multi-tiered roof and is partially obscured by the spray of the wave. To the right of the gazebo, there are several tall, dark poles, possibly for lighting or communication.

58,000+
REACHED



EMERGENCY RELIEF

*Y*our zakat and *sadaqah* charity — given into the able hands of Zakat Foundation's relief specialists across the world — quickly and directly quenched, fed, healed, warmed and housed **more than 58,200** of the world's thronging victims of armed conflict and natural disaster.

From Yemen to Puerto Rico, Colombia to North Carolina, Indonesia to the Philippines, your compassionate gifts reached victims of war, refugees and the internally displaced by conflict, as well as hurricane and typhoon casualties.

Your generosity became hot food for the hungry, clean water for the thirsting, tents and bedding for the homeless, medicine and medical treatment for the injured, and hygiene kits and heaters for stricken families.

The need and numbers have already jumped compared with this reporting year:

NATURAL DISASTERS ⁽¹⁾

315 Events | 68.5 Million Affected | 11,804 Deaths

ARMED CONFLICTS ⁽²⁾

128 worldwide | 128,850+ deaths

(83% of all deaths in Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria & Iraq)

⁽¹⁾ Reliefweb Natural Disasters 2018, 21 June 2019

⁽²⁾ "Organized Violence, 1989-2018 and Peace Agreements," Journal of Peace Research, June 3, 2019.

STRICKEN FAMILIES YOU REACHED

You rushed help to thousands: victims of war in Yemen and of civil strife in Colombia; and to the storm-struck of Indonesia, the Philippines, North Carolina and Puerto Rico.

YEMEN You sent 4,908 food baskets feeding for a month more than 36,000 children, women and men displaced by ongoing war and exposed to ravaging disease.

COLOMBIA You gave shelter and life-sustaining grains to 500 refugee families fleeing civil conflict and economic devastation in Venezuela. Hundreds more received the nutritious snack kits, winter coats, blankets, shoes and clothing you sent them.

NORTH CAROLINA A total of 2005 families who were affected by Hurricane Florence have been reached. The items distributed include heaters, warm meals, supplies and cleaning kits.

PHILIPPINES Super Typhoon Mangkhut ripped through the northern Philippines on September 14, 2018, leaving untold devastation in its wake. You immediately rushed food, water, emergency shelter, and other aid to 480 families displaced by the storm.

INDONESIA Back-to-back earthquakes devastated Lombok island on August 5, 2018, and Central Sulawesi on September 28. The magnitude-6.9 and massive 7.5 temblors killed some 2,600 and displaced an astounding half-million. Your aid enabled Zakat Foundation to open an emergency kitchen that fed some 1,100 families a day.

PUERTO RICO The support you have shown the people of Puerto Rico struck by Hurricane Maria in 2017, the worst in its history, arrived with the very first aid its victims received. You have continued supporting them ever since. At least 200 families still suffering from the storm's effects received from you a steady supply of food, water, clothing, hygiene products and health supplies.





"We wanted to call all of you here today because we are simply grateful for your generosity,"

Gov. Roy Cooper, North Carolina, thanking Zakat Foundation, and others, for their Hurricane Florence relief efforts.

A young boy takes food to his family at a Zakat Foundation relief effort. YEMEN



IFTAR PACK
RAMADAN-2019
INDIA

7.5 MILLION MEALS



FOOD SECURITY

*F*ood security: When “all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious *food* that meets their *food* preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.”

— United Nations’ Committee
on World Food Security

“*Zero hunger*” — that’s the second of the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals and a Zakat Foundation priority.

You provided *halal*, nutritious food to some 423,903 people in 44 countries on five continents this year. Your reach grows especially long during Ramadan’s fasts, on Eid al-Adha, and with the *aqiqah* sacrifices of grateful parents of newborns throughout the year.

THE GIFT OF HUNGER RELIEF

We reach those far off the beaten path, the poor and hungry. The oft-forgotten. And when we arrive with your food gifts, they are beside themselves with happiness and instantly throw their palms up, sending prayers for you, their donor.

RAMADAN You gave **4,125,806 meals** in the month of Ramadan alone to some of the poorest people in the farthest, most forgotten corners of the world. 100 lb. food packages filled with lentils, rice, wheat flour, cane sugar, cooking oil, vermicelli, ghee, dates and tea were hand-delivered on your behalf.

UDHIYA QURBANI Our largest global fresh meat distribution gave 144,329 lbs. of locally raised, fresh meat (never frozen, never canned), hand-slaughtered and hand-delivered to 200,000 happy recipients in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Americas.

AQIQAH IN AFRICA Your *aqiqah* sacrifices fed protein-rich halal meat to the hungry from Ghana, Mali, Kenya and Ethiopia.

HAITI SCHOOLS Extremely poor children in 12 Haiti schools receive nutritious meals every single day of the year. Most of the children tell us that without it, they would go hungry. This year, the school children were also supplied seeds and training to grow vegetables gardens.



A refugee child overjoyed to receive your Ramadan food gifts. Before we left, they said a prayer for our donors.

ROHINGYA





“ ‘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.’ ”

Aisha asked him why he had said this, and he said,

‘Because they will enter Paradise 40 years before the rich. Do not turn away a poor man, Aisha, even if all you can give is half a date. If you love the poor and bring them near you, Aisha, Allah will bring you near Him on the Day of Resurrection.’ ”

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Food baskets alone are not a sustainable solution for those teetering on the edge of starvation. Your support for farming and agriculture creates long-term food resiliency.

GAZA HOME GARDENS Among the most crowded, cut-off from provisions, and forcibly shut-in populations on earth, the people of Gaza benefited greatly from Zakat Foundation's greenhouse building program. Your contributions grew fruits, vegetables, and seeds for farmers and home gardens. In addition, you supported farming equipment and greenhouse management training for hundreds of marginalized, food-insecure families.

GIFT OF GOATS Your gifts of goats provided a daily source of protein-rich dairy foods to over 10,000 people in Yemen, Uganda, Kenya, Niger, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Bangladesh, Mali and the Central African Republic.

GHANA FOOD COOPERATIVES Our rural women's cooperatives produce an amazing array of sustainable and sustaining foods — from bread to tapioca — by growing and processing the carbohydrate-rich crop cassava. Now self-reliant, these women feed their entire villages of 630 people, including their children and elderly.





A young boy tends the greenhouse garden you gifted to his family for year-round food security and income. GAZA



**36,500
WITH CLEAN WATER**

SADAQAH JARIYAH

CHARITY EVER-FLOWING

The Prophet, on him be peace, said: “When a child of Adam dies, his works cease, except from three things he leaves behind: a charity that keeps giving, knowledge that benefits, or a righteous child that prays for him.” (Muslim)

We should not wait until we pass, hoping that another will think to increase our reward with God in the afterlife. Nor should we let our loved ones depart this world without seeking to create for them a source of goodness that flows ever into their balances in the hereafter.

Water is the source of life, the Quran tells us, but an astonishing 3.575 million people die from dirty water every year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

That’s one person every 10 seconds, more than 5,000 children every day, and 2.2 million a year killed by water-linked diseases.

Safely managed access to water for drinking, sanitation, and handwashing for all by 2030 is key Sustainable Development Goal 6 for the United Nations.

Zakat Foundation’s **well and hand pump program** is a thriving source of ever-flowing charity for you and those dear to you.

So too is our mosque-building program that helps needful communities — especially those struck by natural disaster or immersed in poverty — construct masjids as gathering places for worship and communal activities, planning and events.



AN EVER-FLOWING CHARITY

2.2 billion people on earth — the blue planet — lack access to drinking water at home, on demand, and free of contaminants. That's 1 in 3 human beings in the world.

QUENCHING THE THIRST OF THOUSANDS

More than half of all people, 4.2 billion, don't have safe sanitation resources. Another 3 billion don't have an acceptable way to wash their hands.

You've responded with enthusiastic support for our Clean Water Program, especially on behalf of your loved ones. Last year, you sponsored the digging and installation of 146 wells and hand pumps around the world.

That's almost three new clean-water sources a week that Zakat Foundation has installed in Mali, Mauritania, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Somalia, Kenya, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Cambodia.

They serve about 36,500 people a day. Every day of the year. Such is a charity whose blessings gush ever on for us into the eternal Hereafter.

BUILDING MOSQUES, BUILDING COMMUNITY

With the support of our donors, this fiscal year completes the construction of two mosques — in Ghana and the Philippines — offering congregational prayers and a place of gathering for community, women and youth groups.

Your donations also funded the renovation of nine mosques with masonry, carpentry, doors, windows, lattice work, painting and pulpits, generators for electricity and loud speakers. Together, these community spaces benefit some 15,443 individuals.

Our board member joins with locals to paint a masjid donated by our supporters. KENYA





A child quenches his thirst at a Zakat Foundation water source, which a donor dedicated on behalf of her family. INDIA



Handwashing stations now installed in six schools provide sanitation to 1,349 students in Haiti.

A close-up photograph of a woman with a joyful expression, wearing a red headscarf and a colorful floral-patterned garment. She is carrying a large, heavy bunch of green bananas on her head, with her right arm visible holding the stem. The background is slightly blurred, showing a white wall and some greenery.

27,305+
LIFTED OUT OF POVERTY



LIVELIHOODS

*Y*our compassionate and forward-looking gifts helped tens of thousands of once-impooverished but ambitious, capable people — especially women — get the training they needed to economically establish themselves and their families.

In Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and for refugees right here at home, those who partake in the livelihood and economy-strengthening programs that you enabled Zakat Foundation to create acquire the assets and knowledge indispensable to setting a durable financial foundation under their feet.

Now, they stand tall as material contributors — not only to their own households — but beyond this to the development of their local communities.

Our programs purposefully move the world closer to reaching United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 8 by its 2030 deadline: *Sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.*

You've equipped Zakat Foundation's specialists in the field, many of them volunteers, to design flourishing farming cooperatives, self-proliferating animal husbandry programs, and a growing array of vocational courses that give people the skills, means and market connections to independently support themselves and nourish their families.

This exerts a critical cascade effect on the physical, mental and spiritual health of these beneficiaries, and importantly the children in their sphere. For these, it models striving, prosperity and achievement — the stuff of dreams suddenly attainable.

Take a look at what, with God's blessings, we've achieved.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & FARM COOPERATIVES

FARMING COOPERATIVES

YEMEN Zakat Foundation's sesame farmers program now has 1,420 families. Experts teach these seed growers how to maximize their productivity in the field, with a 30% jump in yields over last year.

You enabled us to set up another 534 families in sesame-processing cooperatives. They take the sesame seeds and make food products and precious oil. Your generous gifts to the farmers of Yemen have enabled us to supply processing plants with generators to overcome the ravages of war on the country's energy and water utility availability. Also, we've brought in professionals to link farmers and processors to market sellers and buyers, optimizing their profits and creating more local wealth.

As Yemen enters its fifth year of an egregiously devastating war that has caused widespread famine and disease, the increased production, processing and availability of sesame as a concentrated nutritional local staple is vital.

We've recently added Yemen's farmers into our Animal Husbandry Program with 40 pairs of mating sheep for milk, wool and meat to make food supplies more readily attainable.

PALESTINE Your generous aid has newly brought intensive, hothouse farming to 20 families in a cooperative. Zakat Foundation supplies the greenhouses, equipment, training, and expert guidance for growing and marketing. The produce sustains the families nutritionally and provides them income from its surplus sales.

GHANA The two Women's Cassava Cooperatives for processing this tapioca-like staple continue to run strong with your support. Cassava requires an intensive preparation that these women used to do by hand. We gave them processing machines and proper power, which increased their production 50-fold. This dramatically raised profits and job prospects, directly creating health and education dividends for their children and communities.

The profits benefit the women and their families for home, food, medical care, clothing, education and social activities such as weddings and funerals — virtually all of it circulating within the community. In this report period, the women of one Cooperative alone produced revenues of GH¢1.4 million (equivalent to \$266,000).

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

For years now, you have supported our work to buy mating pairs of cattle — cows, sheep and goats — and gift them to poor farmers in Yemen, Bangladesh, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and more.

We started with 100 mating pairs that have now grown to thousands. They provide families with dairy foods to eat and sell for profit.

As part of the program, beneficiaries pay it forward and give their needful neighbors cattle birthed by their herds to help them become self-sustaining, too.





This is Jamila, a widowed mother of seven children. She was once severely impoverished and without any hope. We simply gave her a pair of mating goats. She invested them and purchased a cow, then invested further and eventually purchased land on which she now grows beans, ground nuts, maize and more. Today, Jamila is not only self-sufficient, but she, too, has become a Zakat Foundation donor!

VOCATIONAL TRAINING & BUSINESS START-UPS

None benefit more than refugees and vulnerable girls from new, marketable skill acquisition and help in establishing their own businesses.

KENYA — REFUGEE GIRLS TURN FROM TRAUMA TO TRIUMPH

Refugee survivors of trafficking and abuse fleeing from East and Central Africa find refuge in the RefuSHE safehouse in Nairobi. Its girls, ages 13-23, receive safe housing, formal secondary education and counseling for gender-based abuse and sexual assault.

UNITED STATES — JOB PLACEMENT FOR REFUGEE PROFESSIONALS

Your generosity toward refugees in America has had life-changing outcomes for 255 people this year. Educated as professionals (engineers, scientists, academics, degreed specialists) before being forced from their homes, your support finds them internships, retraining for licensing qualifications in their fields, and English language training. Then, in partnership with appropriate agencies, we help them find employment in their areas of expertise.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — EMPOWERING DOMESTIC WORKERS

With your contributions, Zakat Foundation has continued teaching English language and labor rights to domestic workers in the Dominican Republic. English increases their employability and pay. Workers' rights training helps keep them safe and with commensurate compensation.

SYRIA — MOTHERS OF ORPHANS BECOME SELF-SUPPORTING ARTISANS

The Syrian civil war has pushed evermore refugees into Turkey — already the largest host country in the world — with numbers threatening to top 4 million.

But your generous gifts for these suffering women have brought safe housing; vocational and language training; and comprehensive physical and mental healthcare every year to 48 destitute mothers and their orphaned children. Zakat Foundation's now renowned Muhammad Ali Safe House in Gaziantep, Turkey, coupled with Turkey's southernmost Hatay Province Sigharuna Kibaruna Free Clinic, has set a humanitarian standard of refuge, training and socio-economic integration for war's most vulnerable victims. Zakat Foundation provides these women priceless training in skill crafts — calligraphy, sewing, baking — business administration and marketing. It then equips them with resources, start-up funds and support until their new businesses become profitable. These entrepreneurs then become the guides for the next mothers enrolled in the program.



Graduates of the RefuSHE sewing program have become famous for their scarf-design and production skills, many going on to create business in fashion and related areas.



A resident of the safehouse that you help sponsor for girl victims of rape and war violence learns to sew for financial independence and a hopeful future. KENYA



16,393
**GIVEN ACCESS
TO EDUCATION**



EDUCATION

*Y*our unwavering support for the human right to learn has made Zakat Foundation a recognized educational leader among international humanitarian charities.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 aims to *ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*.

You gave thousands of vulnerable children and dislocated adults **the chance to go to school** last year — and we delivered systematic, well-rounded, excellent academic instruction to them at every learning level, as well as first-rate training in the trades.

SCHOOLING REFUGEES, THE DISPLACED, AND THE REMOTE

Knowledge is the principal liberating force on earth. You helped us grant thousands of vulnerable people their dream of going to school. Now they can dare to hope for a better tomorrow.

SYRIAN REFUGEE PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

With nearly 5.5 million Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, they present a massive educational challenge for Muslims and the world.

Zakat Foundation has created education pathways exclusively for Syrian refugees from early childhood through certified graduate education at the university level. At least 3,292 refugee children attend Zakat Foundation-sponsored schools in Turkey at both the primary and secondary levels. Zakat Foundation education programs employ some 300 teachers and staff, all refugees.

STEAM-POWERED EDUCATION FOR CHICAGO'S YOUTH

Your generosity has also reached children closer to home. Through your gifts, Zakat Foundation sponsors four Chicago Youth Centers branches in the integrated Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) program that gives

366 students the opportunity to hone their creative expression and critical thinking. Students actually invent, build and bring a product to market in the course of their hands-on workshops with acclaimed instructors. They show a marked improvement in leadership, problem solving and increased motivation for learning in and out of the classroom.

ORPHANAGE SCHOOLS IN BANGLADESH, NEPAL & AFGHANISTAN

For many years now, you have sent hundreds of orphans and impoverished children to school and supplied them with textbooks, notepads, pens and pencils, book bags and other supplies. Your contributions have kept that stream running for some 60 girls in Afghanistan, nearly three-dozen orphan boys in Bangladesh, and separately educated 55 orphan girls and boys in Nepal. In addition, the new preschool in Bangladesh's destitute Boubazar district benefits at least 40 children.



Orphan girls in an after-school enrichment class at our Gaziantep Safehouse, where Syrian widows and children fleeing from war can safely live, learn, heal and grow with community.
TURKEY

MORE SOLAR SCHOOLS SHINE IN PAKISTAN

Your generous gifts to bring solar power to Pakistan's remote rural school children enabled Zakat Foundation to power six more schools with its Solar on Schools program since last report period. That brings the total to 24 Zakat Foundation SOS schools. That gives at least 4,800 more school children, year-round electricity, warmth in the winter, and a cool, conditioned learning environment in the humid months. In the past, solar power has caused school enrollment to increase in these rural areas.

EDUCATION INSIDE SYRIA

Your compassionate help also reached nearly 2,500 students inside Syria, attending eight Zakat Foundation primary and secondary schools, which employ nearly 150 teachers and staff.

ZAHRAA UNIVERSITY

In 2019, Zakat Foundation's landmark all-refugee Zahraa University graduated its second class of degreed students, including engineering majors. Now enrolling 610 students in its Gaziantep campus, Zahraa has earned full accreditation for its applied and natural sciences, language, and religion programs, and gives newfound hope to refugees whose education had been abruptly interrupted by war.





81,391
CHILDREN REACHED

ORPHANS & VULNERABLE CHILDREN

God and His Prophet, on him be peace, raised orphans to a special place. They are a source of blessing, a key to attaining God's pleasure, and a measure of the health of a nation.

Sadly, orphans together would make up the ninth-largest nation in the world at 153 million. Some experts say that number falls short of their actual count.

You have opened your hearts to the orphans of our world, and Zakat Foundation has delivered your care and more to 7,413 orphans sponsored and over 80,000 more vulnerable children we reached in 44 countries.

And the orphans, too, have opened their hearts to you. Read their letters of gratitude and prayers for you. Really, these orphans pray for you, their donor. What more can we ask for?

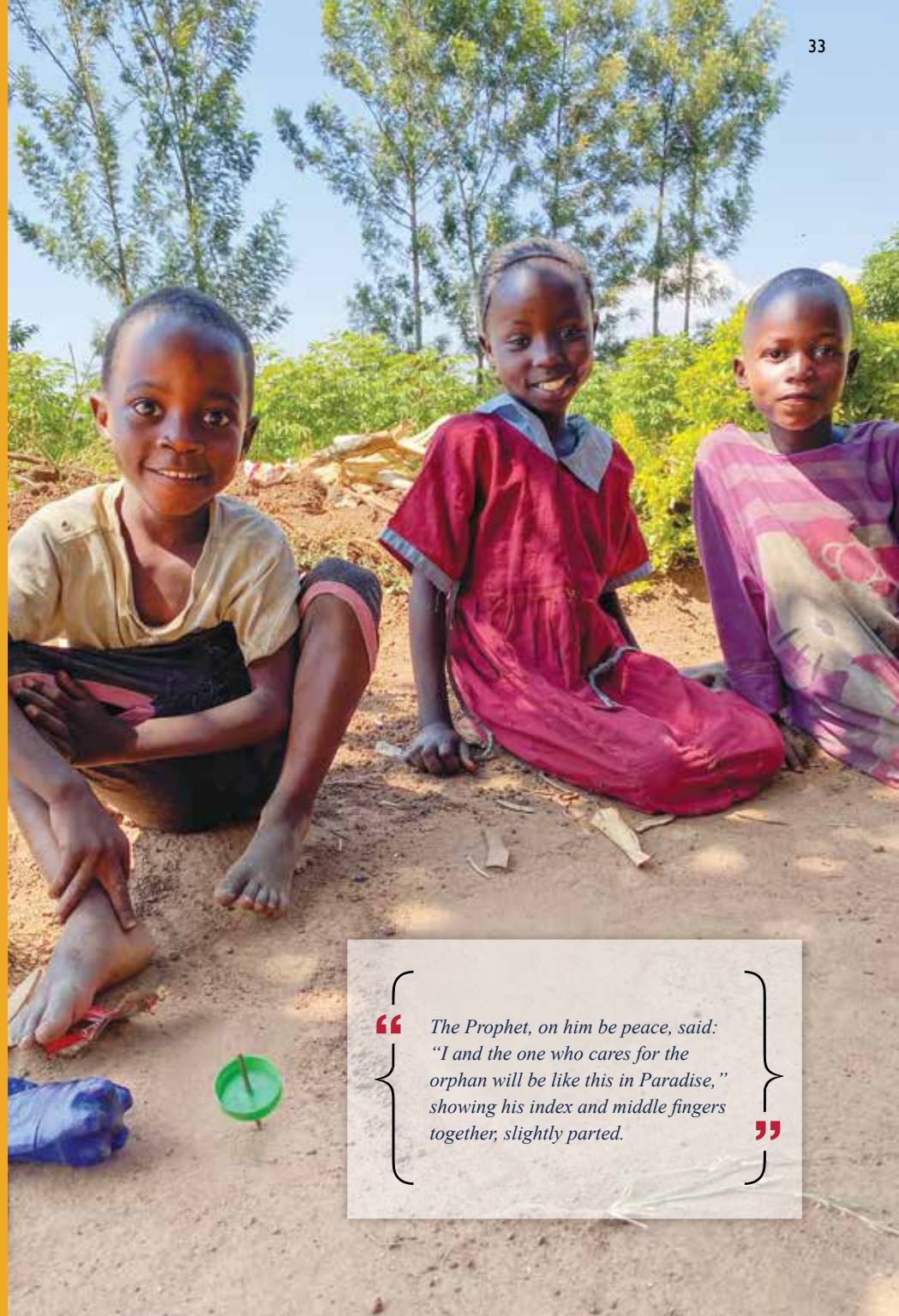
Dear Donor ...
Thank you for all your support



Dear Donor

I thank You from the bottom of my heart for all Your kind support & help in my education. I am very much happy & studying well. May Allah bless You.

Ashirwadam



“

The Prophet, on him be peace, said:
“I and the one who cares for the orphan will be like this in Paradise,” showing his index and middle fingers together, slightly parted.

”

473,511
TREATED



HEALTH & WELLBEING

We all desire freedom from illness and injury. We long for security and health in our bodies and lives.

Little wonder that “*healthy lives and ... wellbeing for all at all ages*” ranks third in the United Nations’ targeted Sustainable Development Goals for the world by 2030, preceded only by the elimination of poverty and hunger.

Yet never has the world witnessed so many victims of armed conflict, natural disaster and man-made climate calamity.

The unprecedented numbers of refugees and internally displaced, the millions struck with diseases, and the nation of children orphaned by warfare and traumatized by sexual abuse and trafficking are absolutely shameful.

The result is a massive physical and mental health crisis among humanity — which Zakat Foundation’s supporters have nobly sought to answer.

With your charitable gifts, we have created a comprehensive healthcare response program that emphasizes five kinds of services on five continents: emergency aid, preventive treatment, rehabilitative intervention, and prophylactic/diagnostic primary and homecare assistance.

Your contributions made it possible for Zakat Foundation to treat a substantial **473,511** patients in facilities we set up, sponsored or provided with direly needed medical equipment.

Some **66,629** — nearly 14% of the people your care touched with the healing hands of our medical professionals — sought **mental health help**.

Explore our health programs. Read on.

SPECIAL NEEDS & MENTAL HEALTH CARE

A society may be judged by how it treats its most vulnerable.

SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN

Zakat Foundation's Sigharuna Kibaruna Free Clinic in Hatay Province, Turkey, lived up to the meaning of its name — Our Little Ones, Our Venerable Ones. We treated hundreds of Syrian refugee children suffering sensory and brain trauma from physical injuries sustained in the ongoing war. We administered specialized care to other children for severe emotional damage suffered from the violence rained down upon them and the unthinkable catastrophes they have witnessed.

Our professionals see patients nearly nonstop, but the waiting lists grow longer by the day.

MENTAL HEALTHCARE IN PALESTINE

Palestine's people, particularly its children, suffer the highest rates of mental health disorders in the entire Middle East. More than 50 years of occupation, growing in size and severity, has led to widespread complex post-traumatic stress disorder (C-PTSD). For the second year, Zakat Foundation has translated your support into professional training for teachers, counselors, staff and principals of 42 schools to detect signs of mental health strain in their students. With our partners Medstar Georgetown University Hospital (MGHU) and Palestine Medical Education (PME), we've engaged in treatment for 390 students diagnosed with mental health conditions.

HEALTH CENTERS IN MALI, KENYA, AND SUDAN

Your donations toward health care have served the homeless and impoverished in five community health centers in Mali, four health facilities in Kenya, and a hospital unit in Sudan, which collectively deliver an array of services including reproductive care, nutrition counseling, chronic illness treatment, immunizations against preventable diseases, cancer screenings, general health care, and deliveries for pre- and post-natal mothers reducing maternal mortality. A total of 35,136 patients were treated by these services in this report period. Also, \$600,000 worth of medical equipment was provided to four health facilities in Kenya, benefitting a population of 400,000 underserved people.





A refugee child with special needs receives treatment at our Sigharuna Kibaruna free clinic. TURKEY

KHALIL CENTER FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL & SPIRITUAL WELLNESS

A ZAKAT FOUNDATION PROJECT

Khalil Center clinicians are reviving the mental health treatment heritage of our Muslim scholars & physicians: cutting-edge modern methods fused to Islam's rich sciences of the soul from Quran and Prophetic tradition.



Khalil Center opens new location offering mental health services in Toronto. CANADA

Khalil Center soared in the mental health healing and training it gave to Muslims and others in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, nearly doubling the number of people it served over the previous report period.

Two programs greatly enhanced Khalil Center's expansion. The Zakat Foundation mental health initiative increased its clinical presence by adding two new cities to its growing roster of clinic-based urban areas: a satellite office in Los Angeles and, for its first presence in Canada, a headquarters office in Toronto.

In addition to its physical facility and location growth, Khalil Center's First Responder mental health certification program qualified a substantial 2,397 Imams, community servants and youth group leaders with direct training. This is a vital program because it gives leaders in direct contact with our communities' most vulnerable people the ability to recognize others' suffering from a psycho-spiritual trauma and the knowledge of how to help those individuals cope in the immediate present while linking them with long-term mental health care professionals for cure.



As many as 8,000 people in the United States and Canada received direct clinical consultation at Khalil Center locations — two in Chicago, three in the Bay Area, and one each in New York City, Los Angeles and Toronto. Khalil Center reached another 26,935 parents, children and community members through workshops, seminars and its growing Web Therapy services. Khalil Center has also added psychiatry services in Chicago.

Khalil Center has also created two new workshops, based on the need and the overwhelming community support it has received for its First Responder certification program: Its Spiritual Marriage Workshop helps new couples coming to marriage prepare for a successful, lasting, family and community-strengthening relationship. Its Young Muslimah Series seminars help young Muslim girls navigate the coming-of-age milestone in their transition to young adulthood. It provides them much-needed personal education about self and body and puts girls in touch with mental and spiritual health resources and contacts for the future.

Khalil Center has just recently secured acceptance for Medicaid while expanding its insurance panel certification. Zakat Foundation's goal is to increase much-needed free and reduced-fee access to mental health services for the community, in addition to what it already supports. Khalil Center has also contracted with several universities to serve their Muslim student populations.

Khalil Center and Zakat Foundation leaders see a great need to expand the mental-spiritual health treatment continuum for the community by creating a residential facility for people suffering severe distress, which requires a more intense focus of holistic treatment. The expense and environment of uncontrolled residential facilities for mental health can be prohibitive and even counterproductive.

The community needs a holistic residential treatment center that integrates Islam's values and mental/spiritual healthcare traditions. Such a facility would invaluablely enable critically needed research initiatives into specific diagnostic and informed treatment strategies to effectively treat Muslim mental health.

9 MYTHS ABOUT MUSLIM CHARITIES

Stories from the Zakat Foundation of America

“A must-read. ... Demir dispels myths with facts. ... It seems as if the myth-busting stories could have come from God-inspired prophets with their ability to draw tears of action from the reader.”

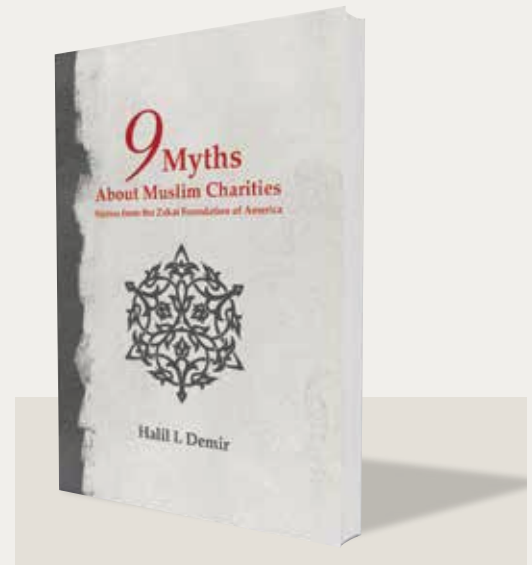
Rev. Mitchell L. Johnson, J.D.

This year saw the completion and launch of the critical and timely book, *9 Myths About Muslim Charities*, authored by Zakat Foundation's founding director Halil Demir. Available at Amazon.com and in our book tour events in cities across the nation, Demir's book demonstrates how fear and distrust swirl around Muslim charities in American society. This is neither natural nor an accident. It is the outcome of a deliberate and cynical strategy to use a vulnerable, marked population as a stepping-stone to rank authoritarian power.

The consequences are far-reaching, hurting American interests and harming millions of the poor and afflicted, not only “over there” but right here at home.

In this book, Demir culls illuminating stories from a lifetime of humanitarian work to spotlight nine widespread myths about Islam and Muslims, broadcast from behind the veil of security. The naked truth is that these mythmakers mean to panic Americans into frightened acceptance of repressive practices and regulations designed to divest them of their native human compassion, their personal freedoms to act on it, and, above all, their vested right as the moral authority of this republic.

This book is a critical read for all who work in, donate to, or concern themselves with the giving world, and anyone who wants to know who the Muslim charities are, what moves them, the daunting risks their people take and the courage and foresight they display, the crucial link Muslim charities now represent in the global humanitarian chain, and the choices that will determine who we are as an American people and as a republic ... and if we can keep it.



What are people saying about it?

“A critical perspective from the front lines of Muslim American philanthropy that pushes back against misconceptions about philanthropic action in the Muslim community in America.”

Shariq A. Siddiqui

J.D., Ph.D., Director, Asst. Prof., Muslim Philanthropy Initiative

“Halil Demir combines storytelling with research ... He dispels harmful myths with facts, compassion and humor. The writing and important work it describes reflect the inherent humanity of Islam.”

Kay Guinane

J.D., Director, Charity & Security Network

“A must-read. Demir dispels myths with facts of not only the work of the Zakat Foundation of America, but how that work is lodged in the faith-walk of Muslims. ... From the Navajo in the Americas to Muslim women throughout the world, the journey through the 9 Myths...has the ability to move the reader with force lodged in facts. ... If you are young in your journey or long in the tooth, male or female, scholar or casual reader, you will be enlightened and inspired by these myth-busting stories.”

Rev. Mitchell L. Johnson, J.D.

ADVOCATING FOR YOUR RIGHT TO GIVE

INTERACTION – INTEGRATING OUR MUSLIM VOICE IN THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

InterAction is a voice for nearly 200 NGOs working to eliminate extreme poverty, safeguard a sustainable planet and ensure dignity for all people.

As a participant and presenter at monthly InterAction conferences and seminars, Zakat Foundation is learning best practices from, and sharing the Muslim-American story – both victories and obstacles – with global leaders in humanitarian services.

Building partners, our participation works to open the channels for Muslim charities to receive just and fair treatment and work with global leaders to develop processes to overcome the unique obstacles Muslim-American charities face.

TOGETHER PROJECT – A GROUP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS ADVANCING THE WORK OF FAITH-BASED CHARITIES

Zakat Foundation is one the founding members of this effort, running four years and counting to lift the profile of and increase the integration of Muslim-run humanitarian charities with other faith-based humanitarian organizations.

Through the Together Project, associate partner organizations learn about the domestic and international impact of Muslim-American giving and collaborate to address misinformation or other political attacks against a partner.

The Together Project met with nearly half of the members of Congress and their staff to raise awareness of and protect funding for our charitable work.

Over the course of this year, more than 12 new members and associate partner organizations have joined the project and/or attended working groups as the project grows and its returns increase.



Executive Director Halil Demir with Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

CHARITY AND SECURITY NETWORK – ADVOCACY CENTER TO BALANCE THE SECURITY STATE WITH THE PROMOTION OF AMERICAN GENEROSITY

As an Advisory committee member, Zakat Foundation is meeting with agencies, lawmakers and government to change the law, making it easier for U.S. citizens to send money to hotly political areas such as Occupied Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Congo, Venezuela and the Philippines.

CSN won over key lawmakers who have taken our changes. Laws and regulations are in the process of being changed in accordance with our policy recommendations to increase the ability of Americans to give to Muslim communities overseas.

We also identified political attacks by foreign governments and together have developed a strategy to expose and eliminate such threats to Muslim-American donors and the causes they support.

Additionally, Zakat Foundation stood with multiple organizations by sending letters to members of Congress to defend these charities from unfounded attacks.

THE ZAKAT FOUNDATION OF AMERICA STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

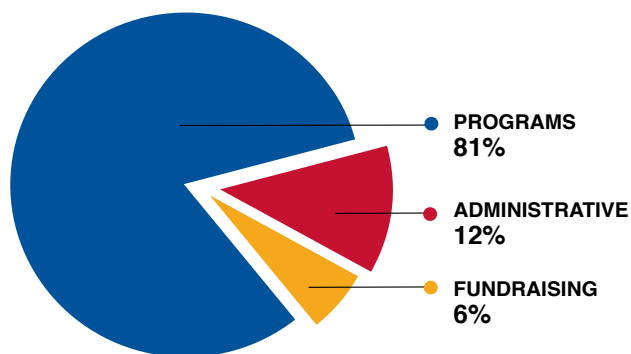
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

SUPPORT AND REVENUE:	
Contributions	\$ 9,804,256
Investment return	\$ 4,426
Miscellaneous income	\$ 5,062
Total support and revenue	\$ 9,813,744

EXPENSES:	
Program services	\$ 8,153,732
Management and general	\$ 1,253,566
Fundraising	\$ 651,582
Total expenses	\$ 10,058,880
Change in net assets	(245,136)

NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR:	
As previously reported	\$ 7,934,509
Prior period adjustment	(80,587)

As restated	\$ 7,853,922
Net assets at end of year	\$ 7,608,786





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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of
The Zakat Foundation of America
Bridgeview, Illinois

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Zakat Foundation of America (an Illinois not-for-profit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2019, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Zakat Foundation of America as of June 30, 2019, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 2 to the financial statements, for the year ended June 30, 2019, The Zakat Foundation of America adopted Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-14, *Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958)* - *Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Mueller & Co., LLP

Orland Park, Illinois
February 20, 2020



ZAKAT
FOUNDATION
of AMERICA

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our water sources benefit
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every single day.

May rewards gush ever on
for you into the hereafter.

