Emergency Aid Reaches Gaza

The recent war on Gaza caused great suffering among the 1.5 Palestinians who live there. The UN estimated that at one point during the war 500,000 people were displaced from their homes. Some 4,000 dwellings were destroyed, forcing homeless families with nowhere else to go to live in tents.

From day one of the war, LIFE for Relief and Development delivered food, medical supplies, ambulances, blankets, tents, and other relief items to beneficiaries across the Gaza Strip.

Hurricane Relief in Texas and Louisiana

Last September, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike struck the American Gulf Coast, causing damages to homes, businesses, farms, and the public infrastructure costing over $24 billion.

LIFE, in partnership with Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Charity Organization in Dubai, provided aid to victims of the hurricanes, and an Emergency Response Team was dispatched to Houston to set-up relief operations. The team coordinated its efforts with FEMA, the American Red Cross, and local social service agencies.

New Orphanage Built in Sierra Leone

On March 15, 2009, LIFE Sierra Leone held a grand opening ceremony for its new orphanage in the town of Mile 91. The orphanage, which will house 100 children plus the staff, took less than a year to construct from the ground up.
After the 1991 Gulf War, the founders of LIFE for Relief and Development set their sights on providing humanitarian assistance to Iraqi civilians who suffered in the aftermath of the conflict. Since then, LIFE has expanded across three continents to deliver relief to everyone from earthquake survivors in Pakistan to flood victims in Iowa.

On the development side, LIFE has worked to improve the living standards of the underserved. Such projects include the revival of drought-stricken Somalia and Ethiopia through the digging of water wells in rural villages, as well as conducting educational training workshops across the Middle East.

Recently, LIFE has been able to expand its global outreach through new partnerships with organizations like the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Charity Organization in Dubai, the UAE Red Crescent Society, Al-Nakheel Foundation, Al-Rahma Charity, Sharjah House, Qatar Charity, the Muslim American Society, Helping Hand, The Zakat Foundation, and the Indiana Muslim Community.

Thanks to our established partners, LIFE’s in-kind donations have increased by over 20%. These partners include: the Brother's Brother Foundation, AmeriCares, Children of Abraham, Veterans for Peace, and the American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa.

The response by the community to the war on Gaza was overwhelming. In the course of the month-long war, LIFE conducted fund-raising events in over 30 cities. The generosity and sincerity of donors was truly uplifting.

I pledge that we will do everything humanly possible to honor that trust and remain committed to the Divine principle that saving one human life is like saving the lives of all of mankind.

Sincerely,

Mujahid Al-Fayadh, Ph.D.
President & CEO
LIFE for Relief and Development
**...Hurricanes Relief Continue**

The LIFE and MBRC relief team distributed hot meals, bottled water, hygiene kits, medicine, first aid kits, cleaning supplies, clothing, towels, pillows, blankets, and other supplies to residents of Galveston, Houston, and Webster in Texas, as well as Baton Rouge and Alexandria, Louisiana.

LIFE moved several families out of make-shift shelters in local mosques into hotels, where they enjoyed better living conditions. In other cases, LIFE paid for transportation vouchers for stranded residents who were unable to return to their homes and needed help traveling to other states to stay with friends and relatives.

**“Day of Dignity” in Detroit**

LIFE again participated in the “Day of Dignity,” which is an annual event when Muslim-Americans come out to show compassion and support for society's most unfortunate individuals.

On September 13, 2008, 1,000 homeless Americans gathered at Cass Park in Detroit, MI to receive food and gifts distributed by Muslim volunteers from across the metro area, some even traveling over 100 miles to take part.

In addition to distributing meals and gifts, local doctors offered free health screenings and medical tests to the homeless.

**Books for Native American Schools in Arizona, New Mexico, and Wisconsin**

Through a partnership with the Brother's Brother Foundation, LIFE distributed $870,000 worth of textbooks and other educational materials to impoverished tribal schools on Native American reservations in Arizona, New Mexico, and Wisconsin.

This project will enhance the quality of education for students, as well as the methods of education adopted by the teachers. The schools' principals, teachers and students were all very happy to receive the educational materials provided by McGraw-Hill McMillan and Pearson Publishers. LIFE hopes to continue to provide such support in the future to more Native American tribal schools.
...Emergency Aid Reaches Gaza

Through the generosity of donors and partners around the world, LIFE was able to accomplish the following:
- Distributed medicines and medical supplies to hospitals and clinics throughout Gaza
- Purchased three brand new ambulances for Gaza
- Distributed food baskets and hot meals to thousands of families
- Donated surgical kits that facilitated 200 operations
- Distributed first aid kits and blankets to families taking shelter in UN schools

LIFE, in cooperation with local partners, provided shelter for families after children and family members were killed in their sleep when their house was destroyed during the war.

In over 18 states, plus Puerto Rico, Americans of all faiths have attended LIFE fundraising events for Gaza.

LIFE’s partners have collectively provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants for LIFE’s relief efforts in Gaza. These partners include:

- The Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates
- The Zakat Foundation (USA)
- Al Rahma Charity in Ras Al Khaimah (UAE)

LIFE plans to continue providing humanitarian relief in Gaza with the objective of helping as many victims as possible recover and rebuild their lives.
Olive Oil Program Supports Farmers & Families

Palestinians throughout the Holy Land eagerly anticipate the olive harvest. Olives, and their extracted oil, are staples in Palestinian society.

During the most recent harvest, the price of olive oil fell sharply, threatening the livelihood of the farmers. LIFE stepped in to assist in stabilizing the price of olive oil and help keep some farmers from going bankrupt.

LIFE purchased two tons of olive oil at fair market value from farmers in several Palestinian villages. Special attention was given to farmers from communities adversely affected by the Israeli barrier wall and settlements, and where unemployment is unusually high.

LIFE then donated the oil to needy families that rely on charity for their basic food needs. The oil was distributed in 18-liter containers to needy families in the West Bank city of Jenin as well as the Jabaliya and Beach refugee camps in Gaza.

The nutrient-rich olive oil came at an important time for these families, as the majority of Palestinians live below the poverty line, and as malnutrition among children has reached unprecedented levels.

Clothes for Iraqi Refugees in Syria

Over a thousand Iraqi refugees living in Syria received sets of new clothing last summer through a partnership with Qatar Charity and implemented by LIFE Syria.

At a distribution ceremony held in Damascus, refugee families received packages that included the following:

- Men's outfits, women's dresses, and children's clothing
- Socks and shoes for all family members
- Undergarments for all family members
- Sportswear/sleepwear for all family members
$1.1 Million Grant for 3 New Clinics and a High School

Last summer, LIFE partnered with the UAE-based Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Charity Organization (MBRC) to establish three new healthcare clinics in the Iraqi provinces of Ramadi, Samara, Salahuddin, and a new high school in Babil.

Thousands of Iraqis benefit each year from a variety of services offered by LIFE’s network of healthcare clinics. The new facilities will bring the total number of clinics being administered by LIFE to seven.

Planning and construction is well underway at two of the new clinics, as well as the school. These facilities are being built from the ground up and are scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The third clinic will be established in an existing commercial building and is scheduled to open its doors by early summer.

An estimated 102,000 underserved Iraqis who live in these areas will benefit from access to health services provided by the new clinics.

The establishment of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum High School for Boys in Babil will have a capacity of 400 students and serve a population of 200,000 in the central Iraqi province.

MBRC was established in 1997 by Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the vice president of the UAE and the ruler of Dubai.
Medical Shipments to Iraq Continue

For the past decade, LIFE has partnered with the Connecticut-based charity AmeriCares to support the healthcare sector in Iraq. Every year, AmeriCares in cooperation with LIFE ships containers of medicine, medical supplies, and wheelchairs to Iraq, where LIFE then distributes the items across the 18 provinces of the country, sometimes while under very dangerous conditions.

There were six such containers delivered in 2008, and among these was one container full of syringes (needles), which are desperately needed by all healthcare facilities in the country.

Also, a special shipment of medicine was flown into Iraq last fall after an outbreak of the deadly Cholera disease.

Other LIFE Iraq Projects

• Provided food and relief items to hundreds of needy families, including internally displaced families and Palestinian refugees.
• Distributed 200 cases of water purification tablets to residents of towns and rural villages in a number of provinces.
• Funded the medical treatment of young Amer Hamid, who nearly lost both of his legs during an explosion in the city of Anbar.
• Donated a 50 KVA power generator to the Al-Ard Clinic in Baghdad.
• Used tanker trucks to provide 180,000 liters of clean drinking water to 9,000 families living in various sections of the Al-Miqadidiya district of Diyala.
• Distributed $1 million worth of books to 25 educational institutions. In another project, 1,000 textbooks were purchased from local Iraqi markets and distributed to universities.
• Distributed 150 whiteboards to kindergartens, elementary schools, and local NGOs.
• Donated 200 computers to 24 educational and health institutions.
• Distributed space heaters to poor families during the winter.
• Held two workshops on breast cancer and distributed thousands of awareness pamphlets.
• Organized 10 public forums on the elections in Iraq
• Partnered with the UN to conduct workshops on the social situation of the disabled in Iraq.
• Distributed Eid gifts to hundreds of orphans.
• Celebrated International Child Day by distributing gifts to 250 children attending a celebration.
• Celebrated World Orphan's Day by distributing toys and food baskets to 150 orphans and their caregivers.
Aiding Survivors of Baluchistan Earthquake

In response to last October’s earthquake in the Pakistani province of Baluchistan, LIFE launched an emergency relief campaign to help survivors.

Some 70,000 were left homeless as a result of the 6.4 magnitude earthquake. Compounding the tragedy was the onset of the severe winter season.

LIFE was able to secure a five ton shipment of medical supplies and medicine from its partner AmeriCares, which was transported into the affected region and distributed to survivors. Also, large winterized tents measuring 4x4 meters were distributed to 135 homeless families that had lost their homes during the quake.

LIFE has a history of responding to natural disasters such as this one. In 2005 LIFE led a major campaign to help the survivors of an earthquake that struck northern Pakistan and Kashmir. LIFE was also on the ground providing emergency relief in Bangladesh after Cyclone Sidr decimated parts of the country in 2006.

New Books for 129 Pakistani Schools

Last fall, LIFE completed the distribution of 82,501 new books to elementary schools, colleges and universities in Pakistan.

The books, which were provided by the Pittsburgh-based Brother's Brother Foundation, included 69,403 elementary-level English language storybooks as well as math and science textbooks and workbooks published by Harcourt. These books were distributed among 103 public and private schools in the city of Lahore.

In Peshawar and Islamabad, some 26 colleges and university departments received 13,098 higher education textbooks published by McGraw Hill. These books covered a wide range of academic fields: medicine, botany, zoology, engineering, and many more.

In all, several million Pakistani students at the elementary and college levels are expected to benefit from the availability of these books in their schools.
First Lady of Sierra Leone Attends Ceremony

Last summer, LIFE held a ceremony in Freetown, Sierra Leone to distribute over 100,000 books and other educational materials to representatives of elementary schools from around the country.

The ceremony was attended by the first lady of Sierra Leone, Her Excellency Sia Koroma, who spoke highly of LIFE’s work during her remarks and encouraged other non-governmental organizations working in the country to follow the example set by LIFE.

The head of the NGO unit in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, J. B. Turay, reported to the audience that the ministry viewed LIFE’s operations with great favor, particularly in light of the fact that 100% of LIFE’s employees in the country are native Sierra Leoneans.

These books represent a portion of the $3.2 million worth of books that have been distributed across Sierra Leone over the past year, thanks to the Brother’s Brother Foundation.

Back to School in Sierra Leone

Hundreds of orphaned students receive book bags and school supplies from LIFE.

As part of its 2008 Back to School campaign, LIFE for Relief and Development distributed book bags filled with school supplies to orphaned students in the West African country of Sierra Leone. The project was carried out between September 13-15th in the town of Mile 91 and in the capital city of Freetown. Approximately 412 children received back to school gifts.
Fighting Poverty in the Horn of Africa

Last year, LIFE partnered with the American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa in launching a campaign to help fight extreme hunger and poverty in the Horn of Africa.

In Somalia, $2.8 million worth of medicine and medical supplies were distributed to hospitals and clinics across the country. Additionally, emergency food assistance was distributed to 1,700 individuals in Mogadishu and surrounding areas.

Regarding long-term development, LIFE commissioned the digging of ten water wells in rural areas of Somalia. Three schools and seven villages in Hiraan and Lower Shabelle received the wells, which will serve over 20,000 people and their livestock.

LIFE also funded a project to feed some 820 Eritrean refugees living in a refugee camp in eastern Sudan.

A serious humanitarian crisis has evolved as half a million Eritrean refugees now reside in more than 26 camps in eastern Sudan. On average, 100 new refugees cross the border each day.

Yemen Flood Relief

Last fall, Yemen suffered from 30 straight hours of torrential rain, which caused major flooding in Hadramout and Al-Mahra provinces. Up to 20,000 were left homeless by the floods, which washed away homes, farms, and businesses.

LIFE, in partnership with the Dubai-based Al-Nakheel Foundation, was able to dispatch an Emergency Response Team to rural areas of Yemen and assist 1,000 families with humanitarian aid. These families each received a one month supply of food as well as personal hygiene items such as soap and baby diapers.
Orphan Program in Afghanistan Improved

LIFE recently reorganized the structure of its Orphan Sponsorship Program in Afghanistan. Instead of assisting orphans through the operation of boarding schools, the program now focuses on providing direct assistance to orphans who reside with relatives or others in private homes.

The change in this approach will ensure a more efficient and effective program, and will lead to an increase in the support that orphans receive.

Under the new structure, orphans are sponsored directly by donors on a monthly basis. This sponsorship provides orphans with food assistance, new clothes, proper medical attention, and school supplies.

Currently, LIFE cares for the needs of approximately 600 sponsored children who are spread across Kabul, Jalalabad and Laghman. Many more orphans are on a standby list, waiting for donors to make a one-year commitment to sponsor them for $50 a month.

As in other countries, LIFE Afghanistan is registered with the government and works closely with the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled to ensure that the Orphan Sponsorship Program is carried out properly and effectively.

...New Orphanage in Sierra Leone

The facility will also serve as a school for its residents, thus providing a quality education and a comfortable living arrangement.

The new orphanage is only the first phase of a major plan being carried out by LIFE in Sierra Leone to serve the needs of the country's large orphan population.

Phase II involves the construction of an even larger orphanage on the same campus in order to absorb an additional 300 orphaned boys and girls. The cost of building and fully furnishing the Phase II orphanage is estimated to be between $150,000 and $200,000.
Every Ramadan, LIFE launches a campaign to feed the needy in many corners of the world. Particular attention is paid to those who do not have food to break their Ramadan fast.

Food baskets containing staples such as rice, cooking oil, sugar, canned goods, and in some cases fresh fruits and vegetables, were distributed as part of the campaign in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Hot iftar meals were also served to groups of needy people.

LIFE headquarters instructed each office to prepare the food baskets with only quality food products, and to use locally grown and processed foods as much as possible in order to help the local economy.

The Campaign was a great success as it provided the equivalent of one million meals to the poor, including many orphans. Below is a country-by-country report for the 2008 Ramadan Food Basket Campaign:

**Afghanistan**: 200 needy families in Nargarhar Province received food baskets.

**Iraq**: Over 8,000 people throughout various provinces received food baskets or hot iftar meals.

**Jordan**: 660 families in 16 refugee camps, towns, and villages received food baskets.

**Pakistan**: In Peshawar 475 families that were displaced by flooding received food baskets.

**Palestine**: 500 families in Gaza and 160 families in the West Bank received food baskets.

**Sierra Leone**: Food was distributed across the country to orphans, the deaf, the blind, and amputees.

**Syria**: 150 Iraqi refugee families living in Damascus received baskets.
LIFE works every year to serve as an outlet for Muslims who wish to donate their Udhiyah / Qurbani to charity. LIFE uses these donations to purchase cattle in the countries where it operates, and on the first day of Eid ul Adha, the animals are slaughtered and the fresh meat is subsequently distributed to the poor. Some poverty-stricken families go the entire year without meat, except for what they receive from LIFE on Eid ul Adha.

Below is a country-by-country summary of the accomplishments of the 2008 Udhiyah / Qurbani Campaign:

**Afghanistan:** 763 families received packages of fresh Udhiyah meat.

**Iraq:** 5 tons of meat was distributed to 2,300 families, as well as many orphans.

**Jordan:** Meat distributed to 580 families in refugee camps and rural villages.

**Lebanon:** 130 needy families received Udhiyah meat.

**Palestine:** 7 tons of meat distributed to 3,442 families in Gaza, the West Bank, and the Israeli towns of Nazareth and Al Raina.

**Sierra Leone:** Meat distributed to 3,500 people, including orphans and the disabled.

**Somalia:** Over 48,000 Somalis across the country received Udhiyah meat.

**Syria:** 540 families in Damascus and Al-Yarmouk Refugee Camp received meat.

**USA:** 500 needy families in Michigan and Ohio received packages of Udhiyah meat. Mosques and schools in the cities of Toledo, Dearborn, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Detroit, Hamtramck, Southfield, and Franklin served as distribution centers.

**Yemen:** Meat for 1,164 Somali refugees living in Sanaa, Hasaba, and Safiya.

**Other Countries:** Nearly 43,000 poverty-stricken families across Sub-Saharan Africa and the Horn of Africa received Udhiyah meat from LIFE. The countries where the meat was distributed are: Ethiopia, Darfur-Sudan, Eritrea, Kenya, Mali, Gambia and others.
Employees of The Year For 2009

Hani Mohammed Al-Zubaidi
LIFE Regional Director
United Arab Emirates

Hani Al-Zubaidi was selected as an Employee of the Year for the phenomenal work he has done in representing LIFE in the UAE and in fostering new partnerships with Arab Gulf charities.

These partnerships have led to large grants for LIFE as well as important joint projects in many countries.

“I have always wanted to work in a place where I can use all of my energy,” says Hani. “When I graduated from high school I volunteered with a charitable organization and I was fascinated by the experience. That's when I decided to work in this field.”

Born in Yemen, Hani has been working for LIFE from Dubai since 2005. He is 31 years old, married, and has one child named Mohammed. For fun, Hani likes to read and play soccer.

Iyad Sulciman
LIFE Regional Director
Palestinian Territories

This distinction has been bestowed upon Iyad Suleiman in recognition of his non-stop efforts for over a year in overseeing LIFE’s relief operations in Gaza.

Without taking his eye off of the Gaza crisis, Iyad also implemented important projects in the West Bank.

Iyad’s decision to work in the humanitarian field was motivated by his concern for the welfare of children. He was deeply troubled by the suffering of Iraqi children after the first Gulf War, and he wanted to educate others about their situation.

Iyad lives in Nazareth, the city of his birth, along with his wife and four children. He, along with his colleagues on the board of trustees, established the LIFE office there in 2005. In his little free time that he has, Iyad enjoys reading history books.

Congratulations IYAD AND HANI!

Thank You Volunteers!

Much of our work around the world would not be possible without the efforts of hundreds of volunteers. LIFE volunteers do everything from conducting surveys of underserved populations to loading trucks with relief items and distributing them to the needy.

Often times, the very people that receive assistance from LIFE will donate their time and energy to help in the implementation of projects.

From the staff of LIFE for Relief and Development, we say Thank You!
We Appreciate Our Partners

LIFE’s Partners Around the World

Our partners, both past and present, include:
- Al-Rahma Charity
- AmeriCares
- ARAHA
- Brother's Brother Foundation (BBF)
- Children of Abraham
- ICNA Relief
- IHH (Turkey)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- MAS Service Corps
- Mohammed Bin Rashed Al-Maktoum Charity Organization (UAE)
- Nakheel Foundation (UAE)
- Qatar Charity
- Red Crescent Societies (several countries)
- Sharjah House Charity (UAE)
- UNICEF
- Veterans For Peace (VFP)

There are dozens of other local partners in each of the countries where we operate. LIFE’s work would be impossible without the support and cooperation of its numerous partners around the world.
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