



- Fasting with Faith
- Thirst to Learn
- Irrigation scheme locks horns with Kenya's pastoralists.
- Creating opportunities for the poor
- Season's Greeting - Eid Mubarak

Fasting with Faith

Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam and comes once a year. It is the holiest period on the Islamic calendar which calls for daytime fasting for 29 days. Traditionally, followers of Islam wait for the first sighting of the crescent moon to declare the start of Ramadan. Ramadan is a month of peace and love in which individuals are encouraged to bury their differences, to forgive and forget and to renew both human and spiritual relationship. Therefore, it contributes to overall principle of making the individual more human, more considerate and generally a more responsible member of the society.

During this time Islamic Relief distributed a total number of 3214 food packs in Mandera (1794) and Wajir(1420) to the needy and poor so as to enable them have something to eat as they break their fast. Each food pack contained a total of 18kg;

Ramadan is a month of peace and love in which individuals are encouraged to bury their differences.

9 kg Rice, 2kg Sugar, 2kg beans, 4Kgs wheat flour and 1litre cooking oil.

39 year old Illama Bash Gedi is one of this years'

Ramadan beneficiary. Most of her income is from charcoal sales, though she says it is not enough for her family of 6 as her husband has no source of income. She spends the Ramadan period praying and fasting to renew herself. To her Ramadan calls for a lot of sacrifice apart from stopping to eat or drink. It is about exerting control over the mind which involves a lot of restraining of anger and exercising personal discipline and preparing oneself to serve as a good Muslim.

She says that Eid is the day they finally finish fasting. "It is a big festival where we enjoy by slaughtering animals and feeding on the meat with neighbours family friends and relatives", she says. I don't have money for buying meat, but I will enjoy the food you have given me, during this Ramadan".

Illama notes that she is a first-time beneficiary of the Ramadan food packs and she is so grateful to the IR fraternity as the packs will go along way in easing the food shortage.



Illama having received her food pack

Thirst to Learn

Daadab is one of the largest and oldest refugee settlements in the world and where education is a luxury to the hundreds of children who live here; owing to the fact that the population has a pastoralist's background where education has been non-existent due to the cultural practices such as early and forced marriage, as well as child labor and social barriers.

Despite education being a fundamental human right and recognized as providing the much-needed cognitive development; it is still the most underfunded sector in the humanitarian aid. Islamic Relief's Education programme seeks to integrate the traditional and modern forms of education in a bid to increase the enrollment of children in schools. With funding from [UNHCR](#), Islamic Relief has constructed 5 integrated schools which include latrines,

hand washing facilities and water tanks. The classes run during the weekdays from 6.30am to midday where they interchange learning of the Quran and the modern subjects; English, Math, Swahili etc.

In the quest to increase school enrollment Islamic Relief's Education Coordinator Fanuel Randiki says "We have struggled to solicit for learning space for the children and immediately established some areas where duksi schools in the Ifo camp can be con-

structed so as to accommodate as many children as possible". To date the 5 duksi schools have a total of 1653 children; 864 being girls and 789 being boys.



Children of Abubakar Duksi School at a morning assembly

Turning Daadab into a place where the inhabitants can develop and use their education and skills goes a long way in making them more productive in their own capacities.

Despite education being a fundamental human right and recognized as providing the much needed cognitive development. It is still the most underfunded sector.

Irrigation scheme locks horns with Kenya's pastoralists.

The Kenyan government is planning to introduce large-scale irrigation in the country's dry lands to improve food security and unlock agricultural potential – but critics have blasted the US\$170 million scheme as unviable, and a threat to the pastoralist economy. The government has set aside one million acres of land for irrigated agriculture over the next five years in the historically underdeveloped north-east. Half a million acres of this land will be used to grow cereals and 300,000 acres to grow sugarcane. The remainder will be used for horticultural crops.

[Read more >>>>](#)

Creating opportunities for the Poor.

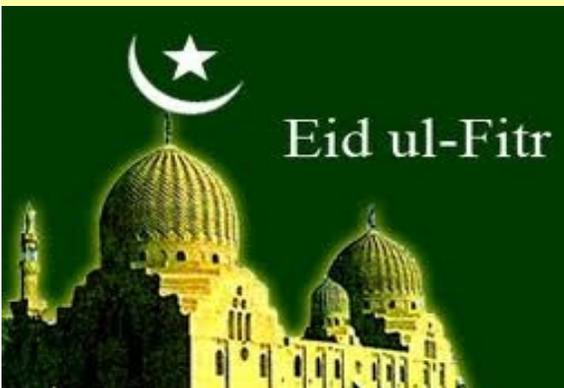
Poverty alleviation is the cornerstone of many microfinance and entrepreneurial initiatives the world over. In Mandera and Wajir Counties, Islamic Relief's goal of improving community resilience, preparedness, food security and empowering of vulnerable pastoralists saw to it that in June 2013, IRK signed MoU's with 3 women groups that will guide the implementation of the micro credit initiative under a livelihood project funded by IRUSA. The signing of the MoU's was preceded by community mobilization, groups' formation and registration with Department of Social Services under the Ministry of Gender and Social services. With clear roles and responsibilities clearly defined for each party, the ground is now fertile to transform lives of the poor and marginalized women of North Eastern Kenya.



Microcredit is the issuance of small loans to individuals or groups for the purpose of starting or expanding businesses. It uses direct engagement with the poor, and looks to the individual and her immediate community to generate economic growth through market-driven business initiatives. It is expected that loans will be disbursed to a total of 1,400 beneficiaries to undertake different income generating activities as well as receive different skills on developmental training.

Some of the Microcredit beneficiaries after signing MoU with IRK.

Eid Mubarak!!



It is almost the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting, and Eid-ul-Fitr, will be declared once the moon is sighted. Eid is an auspicious occasion for warm family gatherings, communal bonding and much festive merriment.

Eid Mubarak to all Muslims and the IRK fraternity.



Islamic Relief Kenya is dedicated to alleviating poverty and suffering of the world's poorest people.

Islamic Relief Kenya is a humanitarian and developmental organization with a mission to alleviate poverty and suffering as well as to provide emergency relief.

The 2006 Horn of Africa drought inspired the birth of IRK in Mandera County, in Northern Eastern Kenya. Since then IRK has been providing humanitarian and developmental assistance in the Northern Region; having extended its programme to Wajir and Garissa Counties in 2010 and 2011 respectively. Currently our major initiatives include Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Livelihood, Child Welfare, Emergency Response, Environmental Conservation, Education and Seasonal Programmes.

The North Eastern region in Kenya is an arid area known for devastating famine; drought and high levels of starvation, which result in rampant malnutrition. Additionally the region is characterized with flash flooding followed by outbreak of diseases like diarrhoea and cholera that have over the years claimed many lives. The region is also the least developed in the land; with poor infrastructure and undeveloped/lack of social amenities like schools and hospitals. It is for these factors that Islamic Relief has engaged its programmes to the Northern Region of Kenya.

IRK is thus dedicated and committed to reconstruction of community livelihoods through direct contacts with the communities and positively contribute towards improving the living standards and conditions of those adversely affected by disasters and conflict in the Horn of Africa.

[Send to Friend](#) >> [View Previous Issues](#) >> [View our Website](#)

Join Us On:

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#)

[| Receive in Plain Text | Report Misuse](#)



Published by Islamic Relief Kenya

©2012 Islamic Relief Kenya
All Rights Reserved
Kirichwa Road, Off Ngong Road,
P.O.BOX 417-00202 (KNH),
Nairobi,
Kenya.

Phone: +254-20-2726282
Fax: +254 -20-2726283
E-mail: info@islamic-relief.or.ke
www.islamicreliefkenya.org
www.islamicrelief.com

This email was sent to you from [Islamic Relief Kenya](#)