



Fiysabiylillah

Compassionate Aid Organization

2019/2020 Newsletter

Feature Story:
2019 Visit to Tanzania
pages 6 - 9

Syrian Refugee Success Stories
pages 4 & 5

The Power of Sewing
pages 18 & 19



Message From The President



Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh - May the Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Almighty Allah (swt) be with you. My two-year term started on quite an ambitious note, as I wanted to push the organization locally by building our youth and seniors programs. I also wanted to pursue government funding for our Summer Camp in the hopes of allowing us access to increased financial resources. This would enable us to offer a better program for underprivileged children to experience the beautiful Canadian countryside and participate in many outdoor activities such as fishing, canoeing, gardening and hiking. In addition, I wanted to continue our quest to find a permanent location for our organization, as we have been operating from the founder's residence since the commencement of the operations in 2001. It has been a long time, and the organization has outgrown its present location and needs its own permanent one. I do hope that with Allah's help this can be achieved before my term of office ends in 2020, InshaAllah.

Internationally, I was blessed with the opportunity to be a member of the Fiyasbiylillah delegation that visited Tanzania and Zanzibar in September / October 2019. It was quite an eye opener, as it was my first visit to East Africa. Our delegation was primarily interested in travelling to Tanzania to visit the areas where we had completed three water projects, and to visit the villagers in Zanzibar who were going to benefit from the 20ft container that was shipped in September 2019. This shipment consisted of gently used clothing, footwear, sewing machines, children's books and other miscellaneous items. In Tanzania, we were able to meet with many organizations and orphanages. Now that we are back, we are following up with small projects to help those organizations and orphanages that we visited. I must convey our heartfelt thanks to the people of Tanzania who extended their kindness and hospitality in making our stay a memorable one. Special thanks to Mama Firdaus and her team from Zanzibar, and to the late Sheik Mohammed Abdul Karim of Tanzania and his family. We at Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to Brother Abdul Karim's family, as he succumbed to COVID-19 while helping the people of Tanzania (see obituary on the back cover). He loved his people and he died serving his people. May Allah forgive him of his sins, have Mercy on him, make it easy for him in the grave, grant him Janatul Firdaus on the day of Judgement, reward him kindly, and be the Comforter and Protector to his family. Ameen.

Looking back over the past eight months, a lot has happened to the world in which we live that has changed the way we live our lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a lot of confusion. After all the conjecture and assumptions, the truth of it all is known to Allah alone. Allah is the Creator of it all and He has control over everything - he is the Owner of the Universe. That said, we can only take the necessary precautions and trust in Him. We must move on with our lives in a safe and responsible manner under the present circumstances, and know that Allah is our Protector at all times.

Over the past two years, Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization was able to complete many projects that benefitted the less fortunate living in Guyana, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and locally here in Canada. I was honoured to serve as President for the past two years, and as I reflect on my term in office, my only wish is that we attract more caring and educated young women who are passionate about building the organization for the pleasure of Almighty Allah and as a service for the needy.

Last but not least, I would like to offer a special thank you to all those who offered their support by volunteering their time and sharing their expertise, resources or finances to help this organization. I would also like to thank the youth, especially the newsletter committee headed by Jawaad Khan. Without their dedicated service, this newsletter would not have been possible. All of you have made my job as President so much easier, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I end by giving thanks to Almighty Allah for the opportunity to serve Him in this way. Ameen.

Wassalaam.

~ Fozia Hooseinny
President of Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization

Table of Contents

Pages 4 & 5



Two Syrian mothers tell the stories of how they started new lives as refugees in Canada.

Pages 10 & 11



A member of the Fiysabiylillah team who travelled to Tanzania shares his experiences.

Pages 14 & 15



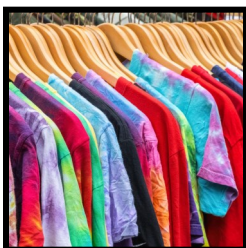
One sister shares her story of how she aided the people of Guyana during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Page 17



Shining a light on one of our board member's efforts in helping the unemployed in Guyana.

Pages 20 & 21



Two shipping containers filled with clothing and other items are sent to Hyderabad, India & Zanzibar, Tanzania.

Page 26



Fiysabiylillah USA update by board member and USA Director Nafeeza Hooseinny-Nabibaksh.

Pages 6-9



A summary and pictures of Fiysabiylillah's trip to Tanzania.

Pages 12 & 13



Highlighting the work of Fiysabiylillah's youth.

Page 16



Photos from a dedicated volunteer's initiatives in her home country.

Pages 18 & 19



Sisters within the community use their talent of sewing in the way of Allah (swt).

Pages 22-25



A photo gallery of the food hampers and Qurbani sacrifices done by Fiysabiylillah in many overseas countries.

Page 27



Fiysabiylillah partners with a new non-profit in order to help them launch their organization internationally.

A New Life - One Year Later

As narrated by Rasha Dhagestane



The Beshmaf family at Toronto Pearson Airport after their flight from Jordan.

In 2015, the federal government of Canada launched its Syrian Refugee Resettlement Program, in which 25 000 Syrians who had been displaced by the civil unrest in their country were welcome to seek a better life here in Canada. With the financial assistance of Canadians for Syria, and the administrative assistance of our Sponsorship Agreement Holder, Islamic Foundation of Toronto, Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization was able to bring eight Syrian families to Canada from Jordan.

In our last newsletter, it was stated that the application for one of these eight families, the Beshmaf family, had been approved by the government. This could only have been possible with the funds raised by Victor Lal's (founder of Canadians for Syria) bike ride from Toronto, Ontario to Eastern Canada. Alhamdulillah, the Beshmaf family arrived in Canada in February 2019, and with the help of dedicated Fiysabiylillah members and volunteers, they were successfully settled into their new home.

The mother and wife of this family, Rasha Dhagestane, opens up in an interview with Ruwaidah Khan, a Fiysabiylillah volunteer. Rasha shares her experiences fleeing Syria, moving to Jordan, and finally resettling in Canada.

Q: Explain the story of how you fled Syria.

A: I went to visit my mother and sister in Jordan. While we were visiting, our home city of Aleppo was bombed. Our house was destroyed, and it was no longer safe to return to Syria. So with the little belongings we had with us, we stayed and started a new life in Jordan. We lived in a few different cities, but mainly in Amman, the capital of Jordan. My husband and I both worked, until I became pregnant and could no longer work. My husband was the only one working and it was not enough to purchase food or pay rent.

Q: Did you like Jordan better than Syria?

A: I did not like Jordan better than Syria. It was very difficult living in Jordan, especially living in Amman. The Jordanian people raised the rent when the Syrian refugees came to their country, making it very hard to live there. Jordan was definitely not our home, but it was much safer for us and our kids.

Q: What were your emotions when you found out you were being given the chance to live in Canada?

A: Oh, we were so happy! In Jordan we could barely pay the rent, let alone afford the mandatory school fees for our children. We were so excited to leave the poor living conditions we were facing and to start a new life in a peaceful country like Canada.

Q: What was your greatest fear of moving to Canada?

A: Our biggest fear of moving to this country was the language barrier. Alhamdulillah, we were blessed to know enough English to get by. However, this was a huge concern for my mother and sister who had already come to Canada, as they did not speak any English. Despite our fears, my family and I were all willing to give life in Canada a try, as it could not be worse than Jordan.

Q: What was your first impression of Canada when you arrived?

A: We quickly noticed that Canada was very different from Syria. The houses, the climate and the people were all so different. Nevertheless, we put this initial intimidation aside and focused on improving our skills so that we can work, and improving our English so as to better adjust to our new home.

Q: Does your family find it difficult to learn the new language?

A: Alhamdulillah, my kids and my husband are picking the English up very quickly. It helps because I am more fluent in English, allowing them to practice the language by hearing it from me.

Q: Do you find it more difficult to lead a Muslim lifestyle in Canada than you did in the Middle East?

A: No, not at all. I believe that if you want to do your duties as a Muslim such as your zakat and your Hajj, no one here is going to stop you. Canada is a free country and everyone is entitled to their own religious beliefs. Halal food and modest clothing are harder to find here, but they are available to those who are willing to look.

Q: Now that you've experienced life in Canada, would you want to go back to Syria?

A: We love the country of Syria. We were born there and lived there for most of our lives - it is in our heart. But these days, we are too afraid to go back. They could kill us and no one would know. Syria is no longer safe.

Q: What would be your message to other refugees who are considering seeking asylum in Canada?

A: I love Canada! Although the people here are different, they are very respectful and helpful. My husband, my kids and I are more than grateful that we had the opportunity to come to this beautiful country, and I would recommend it to anyone fleeing unsafe circumstances.



The Beshmafs rejoicing with their relatives after being apart from them for years.

Starting a New Life in Canada

Written by Fozia Hooseinny

War - it seems inevitable in today's world, so we must deal with it as it comes. We must be ever grateful to Almighty Allah (swt) that we live in a land that is safe and secure from the plagues and pangs of war. We at Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization are very happy that we had the opportunity under the Canadian Family Sponsorship Program to sponsor Syrian families who fled war-torn Syria after the civil war broke out.

Our organization was very fortunate to work with the Muslim Parents of Durham (MPOD), whose main goal was to raise approximately \$60,000 in zakat funds to help resettle two Syrian families in Canada. Alhamdulillah, Fiysabiylillah was successful in bringing one of these families but was unable to bring the second. Unfortunately, sponsoring families under the Canadian Sponsorship Program became very difficult as the Canadian government drastically reduced the number of sponsored families being permitted. Consequently, Fiysabiylillah's board of directors unanimously agreed to transfer the funds earmarked for the second family to the Syrian Widows and Orphans Program in an attempt to use the money to support Syrian refugee families in Jordan instead.



Basima's three sons: Shan & Nalby who came with her to Canada, and Aslan who was born here.

In light of Fiysabiylillah's unsuccessful sponsorship of the second family, it is with thankfulness that we recognise the great blessing of being able to successfully sponsor the first family of Basima Akhorik and her two sons. Her story is an inspiration to us all, especially those of us who are facing difficulties in our lives, showing us that when we remain close to Almighty Allah and strive for betterment, great things can happen.

Basima Akhorik was born, educated, and married in Homs, Syria. She was living a life of happiness with her husband and two children in Homs, when her husband was brutally killed in the Syrian civil war in 2013. Her life changed overnight - she became a widow, her children orphaned and the safety and certainty of everyday life was instantly snatched away. With the help of family, she was able to flee to Jordan.

By the Mercy of Almighty Allah, she was able to register with the Hemma Volunteer Group in Jordan and was sponsored under the Fiysabiylillah's Syrian Widows and Orphans Program. Later, she applied to resettle in Canada under Fiysabiylillah's Syrian Family Sponsorship Program, and her application was successfully processed by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Basima and her children landed in Canada on July 21, 2016 and became permanent residents of Canada upon arrival.

Basima chose Canada because it was known to be a safe place to live. It was good for her children's education, and offered many opportunities for both them and herself. Basima did not know of anyone who came to Canada before, and she had her misgivings in coming to a new country where she did not know the language, the culture, or the ways of the people. Nevertheless, that did not deter her, as safety was uppermost in her mind. At first, her major stumbling block was communicating with people, which made settling in her new environment very difficult and frustrating. She is very thankful to the two Syrian members of Fiysabiylillah - Sisters Fatima Alala and Sousan Safaf - who played monumental roles in helping her and her children adapt to their new surroundings, language, people, climate and way of life. May Allah reward both these sisters for their selfless giving of their time to help this family in their time of need. Ameen.

As she reflects on her life in Canada so far, Basima genuinely appreciated the kindness and encouragement she received from Canadians of all walks of life as she struggled with speaking the English language. She was also very impressed with the respect shown to women. As a woman who wears the hijab, she was worried about being a victim of today's racist comments. To her great joy, people enjoyed interacting with her and no one ever showed any dislike towards her. She lives nicely with all her neighbours and has good relationships with everyone. She loves living in Canada. This is truly a free and wonderful country, Alhamdulillah.

Basima hopes to become a teacher one day, as she was when living in Syria. She feels confident that she and her children have the opportunity to succeed in whatever it is they choose, as this land is a land of opportunity where anyone can be whatever they like as long as they are willing to work hard for it. Basima was able to pass her driving tests and now drives her own car. Also, she recently passed her citizenship test, as she wanted to be able to travel anywhere in the world as a Canadian citizen. As well, she was able to re-marry in 2018, traveling to Sweden to marry and spend time with her new husband, a fellow Syrian refugee who fled the war, seeking asylum in Sweden. The following year in 2019, she gave birth to her third son, Aslan. With the Help of Almighty Allah, her husband is in the process of being sponsored to live in Canada and with a little time and a lot of prayer, Basima will have a complete family once again.

Fiysabiylillah Delegation Visits Tanzania

Written by Fiysabiylillah's Newsletter Committee

Hawa Sardar, who has been an active member of Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization since the early 2000s, began coordinating relief efforts for the people of her home country of Tanzania through Fiysabiylillah in 2014, by installing a solar-powered well for families in the village of Kidete, who had no electricity or running water. Since this first undertaking, Fiysabiylillah has completed many projects in Tanzania.

Background

Tanzania is the largest country in East Africa and includes the islands of Zanzibar, Pemba and Mafia. Situated just south of the equator, Tanzania is bordered by the Indian Ocean and eight other African countries. Tanzania is home to many iconic tourist attractions such as Mount Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti National Park. It also boasts a wealth of natural resources such as natural gas and uranium. In spite of this, Tanzania is a very poor country. In fact, it is ranked one of the top fifteen most impoverished countries in the world. A lack of education, poor access to healthcare, and insufficient food security all play a role in the country's poverty.

Approximately 50% of the population in mainland Tanzania are Muslims, while Zanzibar and Pemba are 99% Muslim.



A general map of Tanzania and surrounding countries.

In September 2019, a Fiysabiylillah delegation that consisted of President Fozia Hooseinny and board member Nafeeza Hooseinny-Nabibaksh, along with their spouses Azeez and Ryzwan, visited Tanzania. While there, they visited past projects, community centers, madrasas, Islamic boarding schools, and orphanages.

- **Kilwa Masoko** - Barakatul Al-Ihya Community Centre, Islamic Boarding School- Al-Ihya Madrasah, Bibi Sharifah Home for Orphans, and Mtanga Disabled Orphanage & Primary School.
- **Zanzibar** - Government of Zanzibar's Presidents Office - Director of Communications, Department of Disability Affairs, Perspective Development Skills (PDS) Centre, Disability Centre and Orphan Program, Matemwe Fishing Village, Pwani Village Madrasah, and Angel Orphan Home.

They also met with the Zanzibar contact who would be responsible for receiving/distributing the contents of the 20-ft container of used clothing shipped in September 2019 (see page 21), as well as visited some of the recipients.



Many gifts were provided to those visited such as sports balls, clothing, stationary items, and more.



Mtanga Disability Orphanage & Primary School, to which milking goats were given during our visit. Also the site of a follow up water project.



Visiting a well in Kilwa Masoka that was previously dug by Fiyasbiyillah.



Fozia and Nafeeza meeting in the President's Office with the Zanzibar Director of Communications, who waived taxes for the clearing of the 20-foot container.



Fozia showing the reusable sanitary pad program (see page 18) to Sister Firdaus, Fiysabylillah's contact and host in Zanzibar.



Fozia speaking to villagers at Matemwe Fishing Village in Zanzibar.



Nafeeza distributing candy to villagers, who provided traditional Tanzanian meal of stewed octopus, greens, and ugali.



Meeting with the team at PDS Charity. In 2020, they partnered with Fiyasbiylillah USA for the Iftar Program and the Mtanga Disability School water project (see page 26).

Beautiful Tanzania

Written by Azeez Hooseinny

In late September 2019, a Fiysabiylillah delegation which included myself, a long time volunteer, travelled to Tanzania to visit some of the organization's projects, and to meet the Tanzanians who assist in the delivery of these projects on the ground.



DAR Street BBQ, with the best Skela Chicken.

Although I have worked and travelled in many countries and grew up in a developing country myself, I had some doubts about the general civility, safety, health and food in Africa, especially after hearing stories from friends at my local Masjid who emigrated from South Africa. To my pleasant surprise, my doubts were put to rest after arriving at the airport and staying the first few days in the capital Dar es Salaam (Dar). Many things impressed me upon arrival, including the no-plastic bag law, and the modest clothing worn by both men and women. At our hotel, we were assured that there was no danger of bodily harm but to be careful with purses and cell phones, as there could be pick pockets in the markets. Alhamdulillah, we did not encounter any of this during our three weeks stay, even though we were out and about shopping, walking to and from the masjid, and going out for dinner at the sidewalk BBQ.



Tour of Stone Town, Zanzibar with Mubarak, one of the many friends made on the trip.



View from the Tanzanite Suites Balcony in Dar es Salaam.

Dar es Salaam is a phrase that is mentioned a few times in the Holy Quran and means 'House or Place of Peace'. We heard the Azaan calling us to prayer several times daily from our hotel balcony echoing from the big Shia Centre, the Sunni Masjid, the Ibadi, and other masjids. They all live in graceful peace together - truly a Dar es Salaam.

We travelled extensively to make the most of our time by visiting some of the Fiysabiylillah project sites, and meeting with our contacts who guided us to some of the villages and communities in need throughout mainland Tanzania and on the island of Zanzibar. Among some of our stops, we visited Kilwa in Southeastern Tanzania, where we were guided by Ustad Simo and Abdullah Salum to visit the well built by Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization in 2016, that provides water to the community and the nearby madrasah. While we were there, it rained briefly and the 200 young students at the madrasah had to pull their carpets and huddle to the centre of the

room to avoid the puddles that had formed due to a lack of windows and doors.

I was determined to not only make du'a and capture pictures, but to remedy the lack of protection from the elements for these children studying Allah's words so enthusiastically. Alhamdulillah, in Ramadan 2020, we raised enough funds to paint the Kilwa Masoka Community Centre, provide doors and windows, and even complete the toilets that were unfinished when we visited.

Regardless of the conditions at the time, the youngest children when asked to recite Surah Fatiha didn't hesitate and read beautifully, belting out the Surah with excellent tajweed, MashaAllah.

We also visited Mtanga Disability Orphanage and School, which was made up of close to 100 orphans of varying disabilities. What was impressive was how they worked together - those who could walk pushed others in wheelchairs, those who could see helped the blind, and those who could hear signed for the deaf. What surprised me was the general joy and happiness of the children - which was shown when one of the older kids asked me a question after I spoke to them, that had all the children cracking up.



Madrasah at Barakatul Al-Ihya with puddles from the rain.



Azeez wearing his dark sunglasses with Ustad Simo.

It was then that our translator informed us that the children asked, “how could a blind man like me walk without needing assistance or a stick?” They thought I was blind, because of my sunglasses! We all had a good laugh at that. Since returning from Tanzania, we have completed a water project that provides water to the orphan dormitory at this establishment.

In Zanzibar we spent three and a half days visiting many poor villages, government and charitable organizations, and meeting those in need. This was arranged by the Zanzibar-Canadian Diaspora Association member Mama Firdaus, and her dedicated team made up of friends and family. We mostly visited recipients who would receive the used goods on their way from Canada in a 20-foot container with clothing, shoes and books. Mama Firdaus reported the goods were well received, sorted, and distributed in January 2020.



Community gathering to meet the Fiyasbiyallah delegation.



Azeez speaking to a gathering and making dua'a alongside PDS Charity President, Abdul Hamid.

As the saying goes, all work and no play makes for a dull boy, so as much as we did a lot of charity work, we were also able to enjoy the best of what Tanzania offers to the world, all while supporting the local tourism industry. We stopped in Arusha for a three day Safari, visited an organic coffee plantation run by a village coop on the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, toured the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Kilwa Kiasawani where one of the oldest masjids in Africa was built around the 13th century, and visited the famous Stonetown and Spice Markets in Zanzibar. Tanzania is a beautiful land, full of diversity, hospitality, and rich Islamic history. It is a great country to visit for both Muslims and non-Muslims alike.



Kilwa Kiasawani Ruins - With Abdul Karim & sons, Ustad Simo, and cultural guide.



Safari with a Halal tour company called Wild Secret Safaris (wildsecretsafaris.com). Guide Musa provided halal meals and even provided opportunities to make salaah in the wild.



In keeping with the voluntary nature of Fiyasbiyallah, all travel expenses and costs when abroad are incurred by the travellers and **not** the organization.

The Power of Our Youth

Written by Majeedah Khan

The fate of any society unquestionably rests on the shoulders of its youth. We are the future; the future doctors, lawyers, and presidents. Instilling good morals and beliefs in our youngsters today will provide them with a foundation to flourish and thrive as pious, faithful Muslims tomorrow. For years, Fiyasabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization has been searching for an engaging way to involve today's youth in the organization's ongoing charity work. In the fall of 2019, they decided that they would start a youth group, which would consist of teenagers working and collaborating closely with others of similar age.

In November 2019, the Youth Group had their first official meeting. There was a great turnout, with teens from all around the area attending. Once the meeting commenced, Sister Rawdeyah, head of the youth group, informed us all about a well in Kilwa Masoko, Tanzania, that was previously built by Fiyasabiylillah and was now in dire need of repairs. The full cost of the repairs came out to be \$750. And so, we began to brainstorm ways that we could quickly raise this money. A hot chocolate stand was the one we decided to commit to, as it was perfect given the circumstances. The bitter November air had been bleak and frigid. In such weather, nobody would be able to refuse a steaming cup of hot chocolate. However, we quickly realized that the funds we would collect from hot chocolate alone would not be sufficient. So, we expanded our project to become 'The Fiyasabiylillah Youth Group Hot Chocolate Stand and Bake Sale'.

Everyone was extremely enthusiastic and open to the project, as we were all tasked with a baked good that we would be responsible for providing. We also decided that it would be more profitable to have two sales, at two separate sites. Based on the residing locations of the members, we decided that on Friday, January 13th, we would hold a bake sale at both the Whitby and Oshawa masjids.



Members of the youth group serving hot chocolate and baked goods to customers.

Finally, the day of our stand arrived. We set up everything we needed to run our sale, from the table to the food itself. As soon as the Jummah prayer ended, there was an influx of customers, thanks to a few of the brothers directing them towards our stand. Alhamdulillah, it was an incredible success. In the end, between the sales of hot chocolate, baked goods, and the generous donations of a few brothers and sisters, the profits from our bake sale were \$1302.10, smashing our original goal. Even after repairing the well in Kilwa Masoko, we had \$552.10 remaining, which we decided to put towards digging a deep tube well for the Rohingya refugees seeking asylum in Bangladesh.

When it came time for the next meeting, we didn't waste time moving forward with our next project. We turned our attention to volunteering at the Nurish Food Bank, held every other Saturday at the Oshawa Masjid. Sister Rawdeyah split us into small groups and assigned us each a day when we would go and offer our assistance. And so, every other Saturday, Sister Rawdeyah would pick up one of the groups and drive them to the Oshawa Masjid, where they would help the coordinators of the food bank. Our job was to bring the food items in from the storage shed located in the masjid's parking lot and arrange them nicely on display tables and shelves, where those in need would then be able to take what they needed. It was astonishing and eye opening to see just how many people in our own area relied on the foodbank. Between that, and hearing earlier about all the people around the world who were lacking clean water, we were growing to be extremely thankful for all the little things that we would normally take for granted. We really didn't realize how much we had until we came across people with less. It was truly a humbling experience.

Sadly, this is the last project that the Youth Group was able to participate in before the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the group into a hiatus. We weren't together for long, but we did take away many things. I think the most prominent one for all of us, and something every other young person should be aware of is that yes, we are young, and mistakes are inevitable, but we are capable of great things. We are competent. We are intelligent. We are the future of this planet, and we all must contribute to and build the world we want to live in.

Corner

s spearheaded by our youth ~

Wells for Wellbeing

Written by Abdulmuhsin Baksh

In Grade 10 at Johnston Heights Secondary School in Surrey, British Columbia, all students are tasked with completing a personal project. At first, I had trouble deciding what I wanted to do for my personal project. I only knew that I wanted to do something that would help people less fortunate than myself. Looking at others in my life, including my father who is an Imam and who works as a religious chaplain at correctional institutions, their dedication to improving the lives of others inspires me. This fueled my desire to make a difference by doing something meaningful that would help others less fortunate than myself. As I began the research phase of my personal project, I became aware of the lack of clean and sanitary water, and its effect on people living in impoverished communities all around the world. I saw this as a chance to teach my classmates about this problem, while also making a positive impact on the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, who were fleeing genocide in Myanmar. I contacted Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization, and talked to them about my plan to raise money for a well. I asked for their advice on where to build a well that could help the most people. They were more than willing to help, and with the help of family, friends and the Grace of Allah (swt), I was able to get the project started.

During the initial fundraising stage of my project, I began selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts at my school to raise money for the well. With the support of my classmates and Allah's Help, I managed to raise approximately \$1000 selling doughnuts at my high school. However, because of COVID-19, I was forced to shut this part of fundraising down as all schools in British Columbia had been closed. I had to find another way of reaching my fundraising goal. With the advice of my family and friends, I was able to figure out a way past this problem. We figured out that we could still fundraise, but we would have to do it online. Alhamdulillah, the online fundraising was more than successful, as we were able to raise nearly twice the amount of money we had set out to raise in the first place. This result was not expected, but with good intentions and a lot of help and donations from many people, we reached our goal very easily. In fact, we surpassed our goal by so much, that we were able to build a second well in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The wells in Bangladesh and Zanzibar will provide many with fresh, clean water for a long time. My advice for people my age who want to help and do a project like this, is to not give up and to trust that with the help of Allah and a little bit of hard work, they can also make a difference in the lives of people less fortunate than themselves.



Abdulmuhsin selling donuts at his high school.



The well in Zanzibar that was built with the remaining funds.

My Experience During COVID-19 in Guyana

Written by Anniela Hamid

My husband and I were born and raised in Guyana, and we immigrated to Canada many years ago. We frequently visit Guyana, but had no idea that our 2020 trip would offer us more than just a vacation, but also a life-changing, rewarding and memorable experience.

Earlier this year, we set out for a vacation with family and friends to Guyana. This small South American country full of hidden gems, such as Kaieteur Falls (the world's largest single drop waterfall), has a rich culture. It is home to many ethnic groups such as Indigenous, East Indian, and African peoples. Its religions are primarily made up of Hinduism and Christianity, with a minority of Muslims. We started our trip with a few exciting outings, one of them being a visit to the remote Indigenous settlement of Moraikobai, situated about 100 miles off the coast and reachable by a 4.5-hour boat ride. We were warmly received by the Chief Toshao and the locals, who graciously led us on a tour of the villages, as the kids excitedly surrounded us in the sandy yard while their parents gathered the twigs and wood to use as fuel for the clay fireside to make supper. The people of Moraikobai depend on farming and forestry for their livelihood. The nearby creek is used for cooking, washing and irrigation, while solar power and generators are their source of electricity.

Upon returning to the mainland, Guyana had its National General Election on March 2nd and we were scheduled to return to Canada shortly after. Little did we know our vacation would unexpectedly be extended, as COVID-19 spiraled into a full-fledged pandemic. In response, the country, along with the rest of the world, went into lockdown. All airports were closed, and we were unable to return home.

The people of Guyana struggled to cope with both the pandemic and their unsettled governance, the latter of which was brought on by a contested national election. This exacerbated the country's already struggling financial situation and brought even more unprecedented challenges to the people. At this point, we were contacted by my friend, Sister Farema Shafee, who sought our assistance in managing and executing Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization's Ramadan 2020 Project in Guyana, as their representatives were restricted from travelling into the country.

We accepted her request and were honored to participate in this noble humanitarian cause. Being on the ground presented us with the opportunity to witness firsthand the plight of those who were less fortunate and vulnerable; whose susceptibility was compounded by the lack of governmental relief for those most affected by COVID-19.

We assembled a team of volunteers to prepare food hampers which were distributed across various regions - Berbice, Georgetown, Wales, West Coast Demerara, Essequibo and Moraikobai. In these areas, we witnessed poverty where people go through immense struggles for basic survival - an unfortunate reality that is unknown to the majority of Guyanese. To say the least, this project has given us the opportunity to visit remote areas that we did not know existed in Guyana. It also gave us the chance to witness first-hand how the vulnerable survive with almost little or nothing, and the difficult circumstances in which they live. This experience has really touched our hearts, and reminds us not to take our blessings for granted.



Food hampers that were packed and distributed by Anniela and her team.



Needy families collecting the food hampers.



While we were in the midst of distributing the hampers, there was an article in the National newspaper about an orphanage in Georgetown that needed financial help. This article caught the attention of Sister Farema and I, and we felt it would be a good opportunity to visit this orphanage and provide some help on behalf of Fiyasbiylillah. We were not sure what to expect as we entered the building. We were greeted by a very polite sister and explained to her the purpose of our visit. She was delighted to receive the assistance but regretfully explained to us that due to COVID-19 restrictions, she could not take us through a tour of the facility. Nevertheless, we were very impressed with the cleanliness of the establishment and the management support. This was another humbling opportunity for us to extend our support to the children.



The orphanage that Anniela and her team visited.

In July, with the help of Fiyasbiylillah and other donors, we were able to provide another rewarding and life-changing gift to a widow, by building her a home. Her reaction to owning her first home was unforgettable. Every single volunteer made a difference to help this family build strength, stability, and independence.



A cow that was sacrificed for qurbani, and whose meat was distributed to poor families.

Finally, a few days prior to our repatriation flight to Canada, we made arrangements for the Eid-ul-Adha Qurbani meat to be distributed in Wales to the poor and needy. This area was greatly affected by the closure of the Guyana Sugar Estate, where the vast majority of people had lost their jobs.

Many thanks and appreciation to Fiyasbiylillah, its directors and donors for making these projects successful. May Allah (swt) enable us to continue to serve humanity in His path.

Fiyasbiylillah is committed to serving people in need, and its generosity has been demonstrated to the poor and needy in Guyana. We were privileged to have been part of this rewarding humanitarian work during our stay in Guyana, and needless to say, could not have been more pleased with our delay resulting from COVID-19.

Service to Humanity

Service to Humanity, how it all began... Shanta Youngkam got the idea from her husband, Surendra Bhagarathi, after learning that the former sugar plantation workers could not afford to give their children lunch to take to school and as a result, they were kept at home. This was heart-breaking to Shanta and her husband, and they wanted to do something to change that. Her husband Surendra (who was also laid off from his senior position at the Sugar Estate) gave it some thought and came up with the idea that they should help provide meals for the children, so they could stay in school. Shanta was thrilled at the idea - she immediately began preparing meals for the children so they could return to school, and that was how Service to Humanity started. Since that day, Shanta never looked back, and with local and overseas financial assistance and her dedicated volunteers, she has been very busy with various projects helping the children, seniors, laid off sugar workers, the poor in the community and the indigenous people living in the hinterland of Guyana. Shanta considers herself to be multicultural, as she serves peoples of all faiths and political affiliations - a view that is heavily supported by Fiyasbiyllah Compassionate Aid Organization. Shanta must be commended for reaching out to those in the hinterland of Guyana and introducing them to many of our organization's projects including the reusable sanitary pad kits program, along with other initiatives pictured below. Let us all be inspired by her good work!



Food hampers distributed to the poor.



Books for children that were given to schools.



Sanitary pad kits gifted to young women.



Seeds that were distributed to farmers.

Political Influences at Work

As related by Farema Shaffee

In 2011, when the new government came into power in Guyana, they, for "economic" reasons, closed some of the sugar estates. This created an upheaval in the sugar industry, which is one of the economic mainstays in Guyana as it provides employment to thousands of the country's people. The government added insult to injury by not providing an alternative form of employment to these sugar workers to supplement their missing income. Because of this, they were left to fend for themselves with nowhere to turn for financial relief. Some tried their hand at farming, while others turned to fishing to put food on the table.

Sister Farema, one of Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization's board members, was born in Skeldon, Guyana. She returns annually to visit her mother who is in her eighties. In 2018, Farema and her spouse Brother Mohamed, saw the deterioration of living conditions of the once prosperous Corriverton (a town that encompasses the lands of Skeldon and Springlands), due to high rates of unemployment which were caused by the closing of the Skeldon Sugar Estate.

The knowledge of not knowing how you will feed your family, when you were previously accustomed to providing for them very comfortably, can be mentally damaging. This was very disturbing to both Farema and Mohamed, and they both began work to assist these disadvantaged people immediately upon returning to Canada. Farema got her group together and began collecting food items and gently used clothing, while Mohamed contacted Brother Naeem from Five Star Linen to supply empty barrels for shipping. We would be remiss in not acknowledging that Naeem has kindly been supplying barrels free of cost to Fiyasbiylillah since the organization began shipping to the needy in 2005.



An event held in Guyana for the less fortunate to come and collect the shipped items.

Within five weeks, Farema had collected, packed, and shipped seven barrels of very nice children's, men's, and women's clothing, as well as basic food items including split peas, pasta, and pasta sauce. These items were packed into the barrels, and then distributed to the people of Corriverton by Shanta Youngkam and Faziran Inshanally, some of Fiyasbiylillah's volunteers in Guyana. This donation was very much appreciated by the community. In addition to the items shipped in the barrels, food hampers were distributed to low-income fasting families in Ramadan.



Food items were purchased and bagged into food hampers by volunteers on the ground.

This same assistance was repeated all over again in 2020, as with the COVID-19 pandemic, the suffering became more intense. Barrels of food items and clothing were shipped in February 2020, and 300 Food hampers were distributed in Ramadan to help ease the suffering. Sister Farema is an invaluable asset to Fiyasbiylillah's charitable efforts in Guyana, and her work continues to provide essential aid to less-fortunate Guyanese.



Needy families collecting the food hampers.

Sewing to Make a Difference

Written by Jawaad Khan

In developing countries around the world, around 50% of girls report being absent at school for at least the first of their menstruation period due to inadequate resources used for the management of menstrual hygiene. Commercially produced sanitary pads and tampons are largely taken for granted in affluent countries, however they are neither affordable nor available in many emerging nations.

Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization found a solution with the help of Sister Zebun who, in 2015, attended a charity book sale at which there was a booth showing how to make reusable sanitary pads. Sister Zebun became inspired and decided to try it herself with the help of Durham Muslim Moms and donations from Fiyasbiylillah. After seeing how simple they were to sew, she committed to making 280 sample kits for women in Syria, Djibouti (in Africa), and Jordan. Each kit contained one shield with snaps to attach it to the undergarment of the wearer, and three pads that fold and fit into the shield. The pads are reusable and can be washed once soiled. Also included were instructions on how to use the contents of the kit.



One of pads fits into the shield as shown.



After completing and shipping the 280 kits, she received varying degrees of feedback from the women, depending on which country they were from. Some were very grateful, while others graciously declared that they could afford disposable sanitary products, and the reusable ones should go to those who have no other option. Overall, the kits were a great success, and it was this success that prompted Zebun and her team to make a new goal; sewing and assembling 1300 kits for the Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh.



A young woman receiving a kit in Guyana.

Sister Zebun and her volunteers worked tirelessly for months, sewing the pads and assembling the shields. After reaching their goal of 1300 kits, Zebun began looking for shipments that could transport the kits to Bangladesh. To her dismay, she could not manage to find someone who could ship the kits to their destination. Upon hearing of her dilemma, Sister Fozia offered to take a portion of the kits to her home country of Guyana, a place where many needy girls and women would be thrilled to receive such a gift. Sister Zebun accepted the offer, and 200 reusable sanitary pad kits were shipped to the South American nation of Guyana.

The kits were a great success, creating a viable solution for those who received them. Finally, a sustainable option was now available to them that would replace the old practices that they were accustomed to. Upon returning to Canada, Sister Fozia shared the enthusiastic reception for the kits with Sister Zebun, who agreed to officially partner with Fiyasbiylillah to sew and assemble more kits to aid those in economically struggling countries.

In 2019, Sister Zebun organized the shipment of the remaining 1100 sanitary pads kits to the refugee camps in Bangladesh. Of those 1100, 34 sample were taken with Sister Fozia on her trip to Tanzania, later that year, in order to distribute them to the women of the poor villages. As was the case in Guyana, they were extremely grateful for the kits and expressed a desire for more. Fiyasbiylillah is now in the process of sewing and assembling 1000 kits to be distributed in Tanzania.

When the coronavirus pandemic struck the world, Fiyasbiylillah shifted their focus from sewing pads to sewing masks, so as to relieve the pressure on hospitals due to the lack of personal protective equipment. Although cloth masks are not recommended for clinical use, they are acceptable for caregivers treating patients that do not have COVID-19. The first batch of 100 masks was delivered to Michael Garron Hospital in Toronto, whose nurses were very grateful for the donation and thanked our organization for our contribution. They declared that they would be given to both hospital staff and those most exposed to the virus within the community, such as social service workers. Following this initial donation, another 100 were sewn and donated to the same hospital. Now that there is no longer a shortage of personal protective equipment in the province of Ontario, Fiyasbiylillah has re-shifted their focus back to making sanitary pad kits for the less fortunate.



Pads from the kits are fitted with an elastic, folded and sewed into a mask.

Sister Zebun continues to use her sewing skills to make a life-changing impact in the lives of women all over the world. Let us all use her tremendous effort as inspiration to use whatever talents we have to be part of something greater than ourselves.

The Sister Who Sewed Her Way to Hajj

Written by Fiysabiylillah's Newsletter Committee

This is the inspirational story of a local sister who triumphed over hardship through hard work, perseverance and the blessing of Allah (swt). It all began in 2011 when her mother, living in Jordan, was accepted by the Jordanian government to go to Hajj. Her mother was planning to go with her son Ibrahim, but he felt that his sister should go too, in order to be a close companion to their mother during the long pilgrimage. The sister was completing her studies in Canada and didn't have the funds to join her mother on her journey. She told her story to a prominent figure in our community who then offered to donate her zakat to Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization in order to be used as a loan that would allow the sister to accompany her aged mother on her journey to complete her Hajj. The sister agreed upon the loan and her journey to Hajj with her mother began. Alhamdulillah, with the Grace and Mercy of Almighty Allah, she returned home to Canada safely where a new challenge was awaiting her.



The Kaaba - site of the Hajj pilgrimage.

The reality of the loan was now looming over her as she had to face the task of repaying the borrowed amount with little or no funds at her disposal. It was offered to her that the loan be waived, allowing her to accept it as zakat. She was adamant about repaying the loan and decided to decline the acceptance of zakat, for she felt that she was not in a position to receive it. It was going to be a difficult task but she knew that no matter how difficult it would be, she needed to repay all of what she owed. She knew that she did not have the money to repay the loan so she had to come up with a new solution. She met with Fiysabiylillah and proposed a creative way to help free herself from her debt. She told Fiysabiylillah that she had material at home that she could sew into abayas which the organization could then sell at their fundraising dinners. Fiysabiylillah accepted her proposal and she began to sew. Every piece of fabric that she laid her hands upon

would be sewn into an abaya, a prayer suit, a prayer gown, or a pillow case – anything that would earn her some money and lead her one step closer to repaying her loan. In addition to sewing, she would also sell her own abayas that people over the years had given her as gifts.

As the years went by, Fiysabiylillah began to donate the prayer suits to needy Muslim communities overseas. Without realising it, her hard work was now helping those in different parts of the world, who welcomed her garments as a way of making their prayers that much more special. She has sewn hundreds of prayer suits over the years that served to benefit so many.

She began to sew in 2015 and after 5 long years of hard work she was finally able to repay her loan in February 2020. It was a remarkable accomplishment that took years of dedication and commitment. We thank Almighty Allah for making it possible for her to complete her task and having her inspire us all, showing us the importance of working hard and never giving up no matter how difficult our goals may be.



Some of the excellent prayer suits that were sewn.

Helping the Needy in Hyderabad

Based on report by Shaik Akram, Coordinator of the Kapda Bank

In September 2019, a 40-foot container filled with gently used clothing and other items was shipped to Hyderabad, India. Dr. Yasmeen Siddiqui, a member of Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization and a native of Hyderabad, was the coordinator of this project. She travelled to Hyderabad in February 2020 in order to visit the Kapda (Clothing) Bank established by our partners in India, and to assist our partners in the distribution of the container's contents.

Background

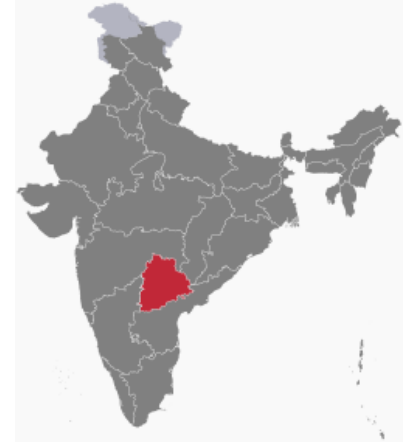
India is the second most populous country in the world, and more than half of its population belongs to poor and lower-middle class families.

Hyderabad is the capital of the Indian state of Telangana. The city is known for its historic monuments, such as the Charminar, which the city was built around. Just over 6 800 000 people call Hyderabad their home. There are more than 800 poor villages in Hyderabad, which are often referred to as slums. The people who live in the slums are especially poor and graciously accept any assistance to aid them in their daily struggles.

The container shipped by Fiyasbiylillah was received by the organization's partners in India, the Siasat Daily Newspaper, Helping Hands and Faiz e Aam Trust. They have established a clothing distribution program that operates through the Kapda Bank, which is housed in Abid Ali Khan Eye Hospital. This program has provided hundreds of low-income families with clothing and other everyday necessities.

Dr. Siddiqui and Mr. Siddiqui, a Fiyasbiylillah volunteer, visited the Kapda Bank on February 21st and 22nd, 2020. During her visit, Dr. Siddiqui noted that the needs of the Hyderabadis mainly consisted of clothing, school bags, notebooks, stationary, crockery, footwear, and provisions during the month of Ramadan. Of those needs, the priorities are clothing, crockery, and footwear.

The items provided by Fiyasbiylillah in the 40-foot container included gently used clothing, footwear, toys, crockery, bed coverings, sweaters, jackets, handbags, wallets, purses, eyeglasses and more. Alhamdulillah, with the help of Dr. Siddiqui, her volunteers, and the workers at the Kapda Bank, all the items in the container were distributed free of charge to families in the slums of Hyderabad. In addition to the distribution in February, an eye clinic was held in August 2020, at which many children, adults and seniors had their eyes examined and prescription eyeglasses given to them for free.



The state of Telangana on the map of India.

Purposes of Trip

- Determine how to effectively maintain the Kapda Bank, including proper sorting, packing, and delivering of clothes in a timely manner.
- Assist the members of the Kapda Bank in distributing the contents of the container.



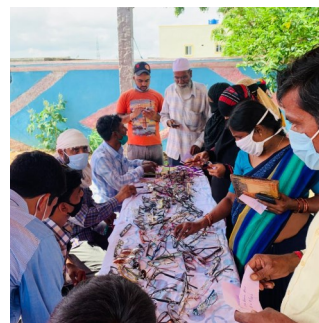
Dr. Siddiqui with one of the owners of the Kapda Bank. Also shown are neatly packed and folded clothes to be distributed.



Clothing being distributed at the Kapda Bank.



The eye clinic, at which used pairs of eyeglasses were distributed.



The Gift of Modesty

Written by Fiysabiylillah's Newsletter Committee

Clothing is a necessity that everyone is entitled to; it is not only used to cover our bodies in order to achieve a state of modesty, but to adorn ourselves for special occasions. Be that as it may, many people do not have access to clothing in third world countries, due to a lack of availability or low income in their household.

Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization began undertaking efforts to help with this global deficiency in 2014 when a 20 foot shipping container full of gently used clothing was shipped to Hyderabad, India. Gently-used clothing had been stored in a trailer stationed in the parking lot of Masjid-E-Ayesha in Whitby. This trailer was originally a place for low-income families in the Durham Region to receive winter clothing such as jackets and gloves free of charge, however, it soon began doubling as a place to store and sort gently used clothing that would soon be shipped overseas. Since this first shipment in 2014, Fiysabiylillah has been annually shipping a container of gently used clothes to either India or a country in Africa. In September 2019, Fiysabiylillah decided to ship their annual accumulation of used clothes to Zanzibar, a semi-autonomous island state off the coast of the East African Country of Tanzania. This decision was made after contacting Sister Firdaus Rashid Rabia of Lucky One Co-Operative located in Zanzibar, who agreed that the contents of the container would be distributed to the disadvantaged villagers and not sold for profit. In addition to this, executive board members Nafeeza Hooseinny-Nabibaksh and Fozia Hooseinny would be able to meet some of these villagers on their upcoming trip to Tanzania later that month (see page 6).

Fiysabiylillah's volunteers worked tirelessly all summer to sort all the donated clothes into bags by gender. Once sorted, bags were primarily stored in a separate corner of the trailer. However, there was such an overflow of donated clothing, that the garage of Fiysabiylillah's Whitby office was used to house the surplus of sorted bags. Fiysabiylillah also made arrangements with the Canadian Clothing International Inc. for 50 bales of clothing to be donated free of charge to the shipment. Clothes continued to be sorted and packed until September, when the shipping container arrived for loading.



Volunteers packing clothes into the container.

The volunteers used their manpower, energy and means of transportation to ensure all bags and bales were brought from all locations and packed into the container. Also included in the container were Islamic books and toys that had been previously donated by families who were no longer using them. The container took many hours to pack and lots of selfless individuals, who worked tirelessly for two days, showing an impeccable degree of both teamwork and perseverance. After completely filling the container, it was securely shut and transported to the port within a few days.

After about four months at sea, the shipping container safely arrived in Zanzibar on January 3rd, 2020 and was successfully cleared with the help of the government-diaspora office and Lucky One Co-Operative, as was reported by Sister Firdaus. Sister Firdaus was very grateful that the container arrived safely. She was also relieved that it did not contain any junk, as unfortunately, many shipping containers that arrive in Africa are full of trash. As per the terms agreed upon, she made certain that the clothing would be distributed to the poor and the needy and not sold. We can only pray that the villagers who were promised clothing from the container during the Tanzania trip receive it in a timely manner.



Volunteers in Zanzibar unpacking the container upon its arrival.

Going forward, the trailer that served Fiysabiylillah for the many years during which they ran their used clothing program, has been moved from the masjid parking lot so as to facilitate the construction of a new masjid building. As such, we are currently not collecting any used clothing until another location is approved for storage. Additionally, Fiysabiylillah is not making shipments of any kind this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By the Will of God, we will continue shipping gently used clothing to developing countries in 2021.

Food Hampers & Qurbani in India



Food Hampers & Qurbani in Pakistan



Food Hampers & Qurbani in Tanzania



Qurbani in Kenya



Food Hampers in Syria



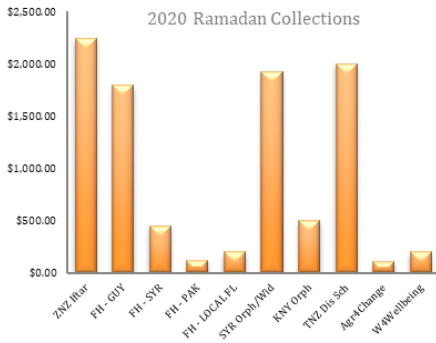


Update by Nafeeza Hooseinny-Nabibaksh, USA Director

Alhamdulillah, Fiyasbiylillah USA has been doing an enormous amount of work supporting all program areas of our organization locally and abroad in 2020. Most of our work relies heavily on personal connections with individuals of a similar vision of compassion, transparency, reporting, and reliance upon God as our source of strength and purpose. It is important for me to mention that while we are challenged with COVID-19, as well as racial inequality and injustice; those that are poor continue to face a far greater struggle for healthcare and economic opportunities without our continued assistance and support.

2019-2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- USA Director visited Tanzania to report on Fiyasbiylillah projects and meet with key contacts in the country (see page 6) – September 2019.
- Shipped two barrels of used clothing to Guyana, South America to be distributed to new Muslims. Clothing collected from the generous Muslim community of Palm Beach – February 2020.
- Travelled to Guyana in January 2020 to access conditions and needs of the less-fortunate in that country.
- Completed Canadian Summer Jobs (CSJ) Application Package for Fiyasbiylillah Summer Camp positions – March 2020
- Collected over \$10,000 USD in donations for Ramadan Projects
 - Coordinated with PDS Zanzibar to provide Iftar provisions to over 500 fasting families in need for 5 days during Ramadan.
 - Sponsored five individuals through Syrian Orphan/Widow Program.
 - Donated over 500 Food Hampers (FH).

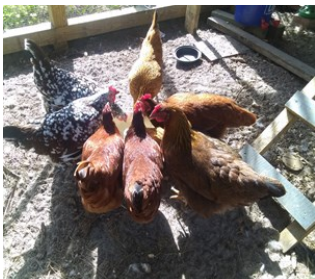


- Initiated Agriculture 4 Change Program – a micro financing program to help those in need with food source/income in the form of goats, laying hens, fruit trees, etc.
- Completed a water project at Mtanga Disability School in Kilwa, Tanzania – June 2020.
- Partnered with Abdulmuhsin Baksh, a student of Johnston Heights Secondary School, for the Wells for Wellbeing Project (see page 13).
- Coordinated first virtual Fiyasbiylillah Board Meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions – March 2020.
- Qurbani/Udhiyah offered in several countries.

- Continued maintenance/updates of the FCAO website, 2020 brochure, flyers, labels, etc

2021 Goals:

- Establish Agriculture 4 Change Program recipients in Guyana and Indonesia
- Update Website and revisit Social Media platforms
- Expand volunteer base in local Palm Beach area



Agriculture 4 Change Program.



Water Project at Mtanga Disability School in Kilwa, Tanzania.



Sharing our Expertise

Written by Fiysabiylillah's Newsletter Committee

As a charity that is well-versed in helping the needy here in Canada and around the world, Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization is willing to assist other non-profit organizations in establishing connections in the community, and equipping them with the foundation needed for their organization to flourish. In 2018, Fiysabiylillah was approached by a small local non-profit organization by the name of Share2Care to do just that.

Share2Care is a youth-based non-governmental organization (NGO) whose vision is to add value to those living in underprivileged communities by providing them with food and other basic needs, as well as building a reliable support system that will fulfil those needs. The Share2Care organization provides the youth of the Greater Toronto Area with many opportunities to get involved in the community such as volunteering at soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and food banks. They also provide the youth with fundraising opportunities in order to raise money for those in disadvantaged countries. Furthermore, Share2Care provides youth with fundamental skills such as teamwork, empathy, and compassion, which will instill in them a strong moral compass that will help them succeed in the future.

In 2018, Share2Care launched their organization internationally by partnering with Fiysabiylillah on many projects such as:

- Providing Ramadan food hampers for fasting families in Palestine.
- Sacrificing Qurbani meat shares for needy families in both Bangladesh (Rohingya refugees) and Palestine.
- A winter-wear and food drive in which non-perishable halal food items and gently used or new winter clothing were collected for distribution to the needy families of the Mississauga and Hamilton downtown areas.



Food hampers distributed to families in Palestine.

Over the course of 2019/20, Share2Care completed many more projects both locally and internationally including:

- 'Because Life Matters' fundraising dinner with guest speakers and performances by their youth.
- Ramadan food hampers for low-income families in Syria and Palestine.
- Providing Iftar for the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.
- Qurbani meat shares for poor families in Bangladesh (Rohingya Refugees), Syria and Palestine.
- Installed two deep-tube wells that provide clean drinking water to the local Bengalis and the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.
- Purchased and assembled 15 (Fiysabiylillah did 5 and Share2Care did 10) heated tents in winter 2020 for struggling families in Idlib, Syria.



Deep tube wells tanks in Bangladesh.



Heated tents in Syria.

These projects would not have been possible without generous donations during 2018/2019 by Share2Care to Fiysabiylillah.

After two years, Fiysabiylillah has successfully guided Share2Care in setting up the groundwork for their organization by partnering with them on a few overseas projects and walking them through the process. The president of Fiysabiylillah now feels confident that the management of Share2Care has been given the knowledge and expertise to achieve great success on their own. The Share2Care team consists of a group of dedicated, passionate and hardworking young women with a strong drive for success and with Allah's help, they will continue making a difference in the lives of the impoverished all around the world.

Fiysabiylillah 2019/20 Executive Board

President - Fozia Hooseinny
 Board Member - Hawa Sardar
 Board Member - Rawdeyah Hooseinny
 Board Member - Nafeeza Hooseinny-Nabibaksh
 Board Member - Ayesha Alam
 Board Member - Fatima Alala
 Board Member - Farema Shaffee

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Obituary

Our dear brother and friend, Abdul Karim Shah, passed away at the beginning of Ramadan in Tanzania. He helped to clear and distribute the contents of the 20 ft container that was shipped to Tanzania back in 2016. During the 2019 trip, he and his wife visited the Fiysabiylillah delegation when they arrived in Dar es Salaam and offered to assist them. He drove the team four hours with his two small sons to Kilwa. There, he stayed with them for three days and ensured that they were well looked after, and took them back to Dar es Salaam thereafter.



Abdul Karim (right) with Azeez Hooseinny in Kilwa, Tanzania.

The day prior to his death, he was distributing masks and hand sanitizers to poor villages. He had shipped similar PPE to his home island of Mafia, which arrived on the day of his passing. May Allah (swt) have Mercy upon him, forgive and bless him, accept him as a Shaheed, grant him the highest gardens of Paradise and save him from Hell. May Allah take care of his family, shower them with His mercy and grant them goodness in this world and in the Hereafter. Ameen.

Brother Daniff Arakhan, the brother of our board member Farema Shaffee, passed away in Guyana in August 2020. He will always be remembered for his kindness and generosity as a volunteer for Fiysabiylillah in the Corriverton area of Guyana. He selflessly gave his time and resources in assisting Sister Farema in the distribution of food, clothing, and financial aid to the needy. We at Fiysabiylillah convey our heartfelt sympathy to Sister Sattie (Daniff's wife), and the rest of his family. May Allah (swt) forgive him his sins, have mercy on him, make it easy for him in the grave, and grant him Janatul Firdaus on the Day of Judgement. Ameen.

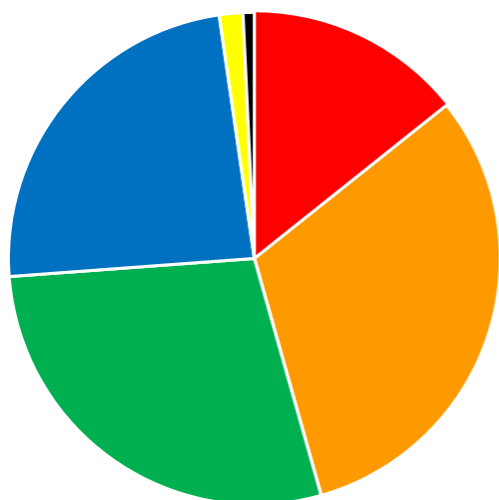


Brother Daniff Arakhan.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

"Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we do return" (The Holy Quran, 2:156).

Fiysabiylillah 2019 Donations Disbursement



Total Cash Donations: \$128 452

- Syrian Orphans and Widows Sponsorship (\$18 347)
- International Projects (\$40 246)
- Ramadan/Eid Food Hampers (\$36 242)
- Syrian Family Sponsorship (\$306 777)
- Community Assistance (\$1 990)
- Dawah (\$950)

*For detailed financial information, please visit www.fiysabiylillah.org.

*0% of cash donations go toward administrative and operating expenses.

*Administrative and operating expenses are paid by donations-in-kind (non-monetary donations).

Donation Information

E-transfer to: info@fiysabiylillah.org

PayPal: visit www.fiysabiylillah.org

Cheque: Please make payable to Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization and mail to:

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