



Islamic Relief Kenya

COUNTRY PROFILE

Islamic Relief In Kenya



Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) is an independent international humanitarian and development agency based in Birmingham, UK, with a presence in over 40 countries around the globe. We have been fighting poverty and injustice for over 30 years after receiving our first donation in 1984. We are a registered charity with the UK Charity Commission and are a member of the British NGO for Overseas Development, Disasters Emergency Committee and have global cooperation with UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM and CAFOD

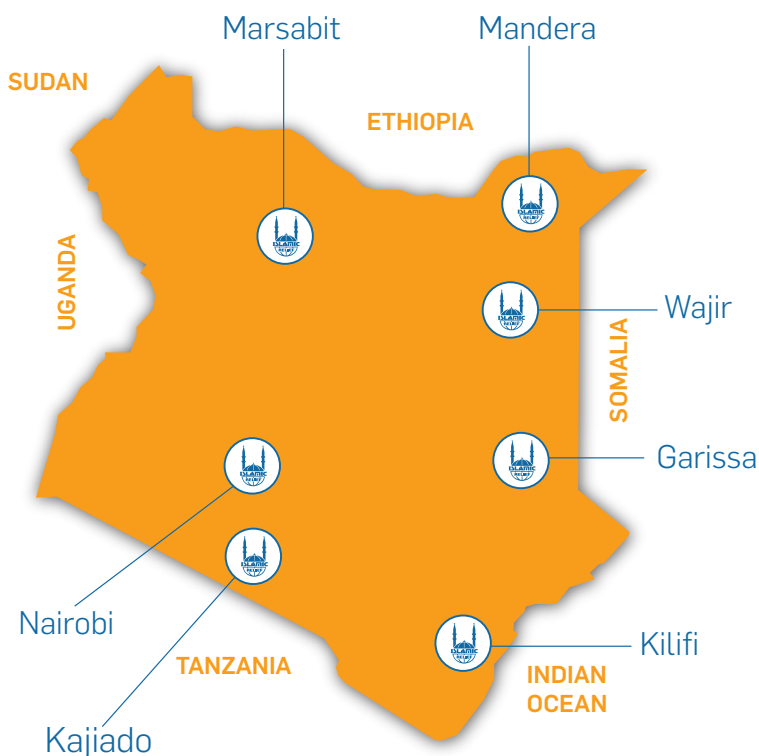
Islamic Relief Kenya (IRK) has been in existence since 1993, giving support to vulnerable orphans and their families through a one-to-one Orphan Sponsorship Programme in Mandera County, North Eastern Kenya. Since then, IRK has established a full-fledged country office in Nairobi with field offices in Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Kilifi, Kajiado and Marsabit counties. Across Kenya, IR strives to continue providing life-saving

emergency and longer-term development assistance to the most marginalised communities in Kenya.

IRK is locally registered with the Kenya NGO Board (Reg. No. 218/051/204/0374/3386) and is governed by a Board of Directors comprising Kenyan and international members. While Islamic Relief's work is faith inspired, IR is not a religious organisation; rather an independent, non-political humanitarian organisation that does not discriminate based on race, creed, ethnicity or gender. This commitment is also enshrined in global accords and partnerships – IR is a signatory to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; adheres to the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS), the Sphere Standards for Humanitarian Action and the Humanitarian Accountability Standards; IRW is also a member of the START Network and the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC).

Islamic Relief Kenya takes a multi-sectorial innovative pathway in building community resilience using both need and right based approaches. We are linking to Water, Agriculture, and Livestock, entrepreneurship, advocacy, peace building, education, protection and gender inclusivity. Upscaling use of drip irrigation while also using solar powered water lifting technologies ensures communities adopt use of green energy in increasing their productivity. We aim to reduce the amount of time and distance travelled in search of water, while at the same time improving household food and nutrition security, and income from agricultural production.

Areas of Operation



TIMELINE

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| 1993 | MANDERA |
| 2006 | NAIROBI, MANDERA |
| 2010 | WAJIR |
| 2011 | GARISSA/DADAAB |
| 2017 | KILIFI |
| 2018 | MARSABIT, KAJIADO |

Our Vision



We envisage a caring world where communities are empowered, social obligations fulfilled, and people respond as one to the suffering of others.



Our Mission

Exemplifying our Islamic values, we will mobilise resources, build partnerships and develop local capacity as we work to:

- ▶ Enable communities to mitigate the effect of disasters, prepare for their occurrence and respond by providing relief, protection and recovery.
- ▶ Promote integrated development and environmental custodianship with a focus on sustainable livelihoods.
- ▶ Support the marginalized and vulnerable to voice their needs and address root causes of poverty.

We allocate these resources regardless of race, political affiliation, gender or belief, and without expecting anything in return.



Values

We are guided by the timeless values and teachings of our faith, which recognize that people with wealth have a duty towards those who are less fortunate. [Our values are:](#)



Ikhlâs
Sincerity



'Adl
Social Justice



Rahma
Mercy



Amanah
Custodianship



Ihsan
Excellence

Strategic Focus

In Kenya, our programme span three pillars:





Youth and Women Empowerment

Women and youth are the key demographics prioritised by IRK in our livelihood's interventions. Our interventions are inclusive, gender sensitive, transformative and specifically targeting vulnerable groups including women and the youth for equal access and participation in social economic and political life.



a. Food and Nutrition Security

Programme Objective:

Improved agricultural production of communities for food and nutrition security, increased income and climate change resilience.

IRK has geared its efforts towards climate sensitive farming and innovations in Arid and Semi-Arid areas for improved food security, environmental conservation, income generation to build resilience, reduce vulnerability, and economic strengthening of vulnerable communities. Since 2006, IRK has initiated alternative food production activities among pastoralists to complement pastoralism which is usually adversely affected by effects of climate change like drought. We are supporting communities to produce high value crops through irrigated agricultural farming while adopting climate-smart agriculture using Agro-Solar Irrigation Technology that utilises less water and energy. The farmers are also benefiting from trainings on good agronomic practices; climate adapted seeds for crop production and equipment.

IRK's livelihoods interventions take a community empowerment approach, focusing on either strengthening existing or forming new community-based structures such as Groups Savings and Loans Associations (GSLAs) that serve as a foundation for the livelihoods support.



b. Financial Inclusion

Programme Objective:

Provide sustainable Islamic Micro-Finance option for economic resilience and development of the vulnerable rural & urban population in Kenya.



IRK's Micro-Finance unit is an independent wing of IRK that provides Sheria-compliant interest free loans to clients in line with the Qard Hassan mode of Islamic financing option. IRK is empowering those economically vulnerable for sustained economic growth and improved food security. The intervention has strengthened the adaptive capacity and provided alternative livelihood options for the vulnerable households with 90% being women. The right holders are involved in a variety of income generating activities with the majority being retail shops selling household items.



c. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



Programme Objective:

Increase access to potable water for agriculture, domestic and livestock use for improved livelihoods and health status of communities.

IRK is working with communities living in drought-prone areas who have limited access to clean and safe water to build the resilience of the communities to water-related shocks. IRK is building, rehabilitating and equipping water infrastructure including strategic boreholes and shallow wells.

We are also training water-user committees to ensure effective management, maintenance and repairs of the water points. IRK is also extending water supply to farms for agriculture, to schools and health facilities for improved, inclusive and gender sensitive HySan facilities. To minimize pollution, heavy labour and cost of using the water facilities using motorised power sources, we have adopted the use of climate-friendly solar energy to pump water from the boreholes and shallow wells to elevated water tanks.



d. Maternal, Neo-natal and Child Health (MNCH)

Programme Objective:

Improve meaningful access and utilisation of culturally-sensitive maternal, neo-natal, child care.



IRK is supporting the County Health Systems to be able to provide health and nutrition services to the communities. IRK is supporting the operationalisation and strengthening of existing Community Health Units (CHUs) while also implementing health outreaches in hard-to-reach areas.

To promote and support preventive/primary healthcare, IRK is also building the capacity of health care workers and community health volunteers, strengthening the utilisation of Antenatal Care (ANC) for improved Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) coverage. Sustained health education and promotion campaigns are also encouraging community utilisation of immunisation programmes, Exclusive Breast Feeding (EBF) and Infant Young Child Feeding (IYCF) promoted through mother to mother support groups.



e. Socio-Economic Empowerment & Skill Development



Programme Objective:

Increase rights fulfilment and economic empowerment for women and youth in marginalised areas.

IRK believes that investing in women and youth economic empowerment and skills development is an effective means to drive progress on gender equality, poverty eradication, and inclusive economic growth. Our interventions support youth and women through both short-term and long-term job creations, youth skills development and enhancing economic opportunities for women and youth through investment in productive sectors, business and financial support. IRK is providing a faith-based approach and perspective to women and youth empowerment and protection including efforts to combat harmful cultural practices.





Inclusive Education and Child Protection



a. Protection and Child Welfare



b. Inclusive Basic Education

Programme Objective:

Deliver consistent support to sponsored orphans and their families to meet their basic needs, improved health, wellbeing and protection in Garissa, Mandera and Wajir Counties

Programme Objective:

Improve access to quality integrated basic education and care for learners in vulnerable and marginalised schools.

Working to realise the rights of the child is at the heart of IRK. We are serving children in a world where children have continued to experience a myriad of life-threatening challenges related to hunger, diseases, abuse and exploitation, disasters, conflicts and extremism. Our interventions are designed to guarantee children their right to protection, development, survival and participation. Our Orphan Sponsorship Programme, the oldest of all Islamic Relief Kenya programmes, ensures that vulnerable children and their families can afford necessities of life such as food, clothing, shelter and education. IRK is also strengthening the economic capacity of the households benefiting from the Orphan Sponsorship Programme through income generation activities, micro credit schemes and vocational skills training.

Children are often excluded from school because of disability, race, language, religion, gender and poverty. Yet, education is a basic human right and a foundation for a more just and equal society. IRK is supporting the Ministry of Education to strengthen the capacity of the education system to support all learners. To create greater access to education for all children, IRK is supporting the Ministry of Education to create conducive school learning environment through infrastructural improvements, connection of water supply to schools, training teachers on the new curriculum implementation, provision of assorted teaching and SNE (Special Needs Education) materials for children with special needs. IRK is also advancing inclusive education by engaging community and faith leaders to create awareness on the importance of education for improved school enrolment, retention and transition among the learners in primary school.



▶ Resilience and Peace Building



a. Disaster Management

- Preparedness, Response, Recovery, Climate Change Adaptation

Programme Objective:

Reduce the humanitarian impact of conflicts and disasters on communities in Kenya



Kenya is heavily affected by recurring droughts. Kenya's Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASALs) are among the most affected when drought occurs. When natural disasters and conflict strike, IRK provides life-saving support to the vulnerable communities across the WASH, Health and Nutrition, Livelihoods and Protection sectors. IRK also supports communities to anticipate the adverse effects of climate change and take appropriate actions to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause. A well planned, early adaptation action saves money and lives. We partner with local authorities to build the capacity of communities to be resilient when faced with natural disasters.



b. Peace & Conflict Management

Programme Objective:

Foster peace and security by empowering communities to contribute to effective community-level peace building and dispute resolution for peaceful co-existence.

The resilience and peace building interventions by IRK specifically target vulnerable households and specifically women and the youth. Targeted communities in the selected sub-counties transition to peace, manage and resolve their differences through a non-violence approach. By strengthening livelihoods resilience and ability to prevent conflict, communities are able to transition successfully from humanitarian assistance to embark on a journey of self-driven and sustainable community development. Islamic Relief is ensuring young people can access livelihoods opportunities including vocational training and be socially, politically and economically empowered. We also realise the important role women play in community level peace building and conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution. To further the community-level peace building initiatives, IRK mobilises religious and other community leaders and their structures to promote peace.





Partners

Islamic Relief Kenya is a proud partner of:



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World Food Programme



Norad



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Aktion Deutschland Hilft
Germany's Relief Coalition



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



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