

Helping Palestinians in Need

Humanitarian Crisis in Palestine: *Interpal's* response

*Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim.
In the Name of Allah, the Most
Beneficent, the Most Merciful.*

Dear Respected Donors,

*Assalamu 'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa
barakatuh.*

The situation in Palestine over the past 2 years is part of the ongoing tragedy of occupation, refugee status and injustice. The violence, the curfews and the ailing economy has had a terrible effect on every strata of Palestinian life. This has translated into the disempowerment of the most vulnerable groups in the community including the poor, the needy, the infirm, the disabled and children, and has resulted in a marked decline in mental health. The UN recently reported that

***nearly two-thirds of the
Palestinian population are
now 'vulnerable'***

and require food, shelter and/or access to health services. That is a shocking statistic, but we have to remember that Palestinians are not mere statistics; they are very real people, with hopes and aspirations like the rest of us, and people of conscience have to do everything they can to alleviate their suffering.

Living in the West today, there is a great deal of frustration at what is happening in Palestine and the little that we can do to help. Here at Interpal we are aware more than most of the daily suffering in the Holy Land, and our programmes are designed to offer as much direct assistance as possible, *Insha'Allah*. In line with our stated objective of working in partnership with

other charitable organisations in order to increase efficiency and avoid duplication Interpal has teamed up with many charities both in the UK and abroad to provide immediate response to the needs of the Palestinian people. Grassroots charitable organisations in Palestine have put in appeals for support for relief of poverty projects, re-housing and re-building programmes, health and medical services, education and student aid schemes, work creation programmes and the like. Interpal has responded to these appeals in partnership whether as a facilitator or as part of the *I'tilaf al-Khayr* (Union for Good) that was set up last year to co-ordinate efforts of aid agencies worldwide in providing relief to the Palestinians. This report is an effort on our part to inform you of our work to relieve the suffering of poor and needy Palestinians. We hope that you find it both useful and inspiring, *Insha'Allah*.

We are grateful for the support of all our donors, and the trust and co-operation of our partners. With your continued support, *Insha'Allah*, all of the above and more can be sustained, offering support and hope to the people of Palestine. *Jazakum Allahu Khayran.*

Wassalam;



Ibrahim Hewitt
Chairman of the Trustees



INTERPAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Responding to appeals from the local committees and to the wishes of our donors, Interpal is continuing to work in co-operation with our funding partners to help ease the effects of the tragedy which has befallen the Palestinian people. Our commitment to increase efficiency and our pledge regarding public accountability has certainly paid off. Provisional figures for the year to September 2002 show that we distributed in excess of **£3 million**, *Masha'Allah*. This reflects the trust and confidence our partners and donors have in Interpal, for which we are most grateful.

61%

Interpal's Humanitarian Aid

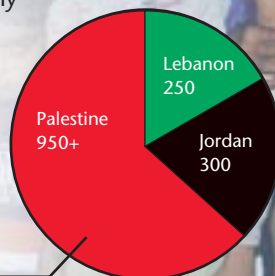
Interpal defines Humanitarian Aid as emergency relief, medical supplies, food (including Qurbani meat), shelter and clothing, and the provision of moral and financial support through sponsorships to the needy, orphans, widows and families of detained persons.

Nearly **£2 million** (61%) was spent on Humanitarian Aid including financial assistance in the form of our regular sponsorship of more than 4,000 orphans and needy children, poor families, distribution of immediate

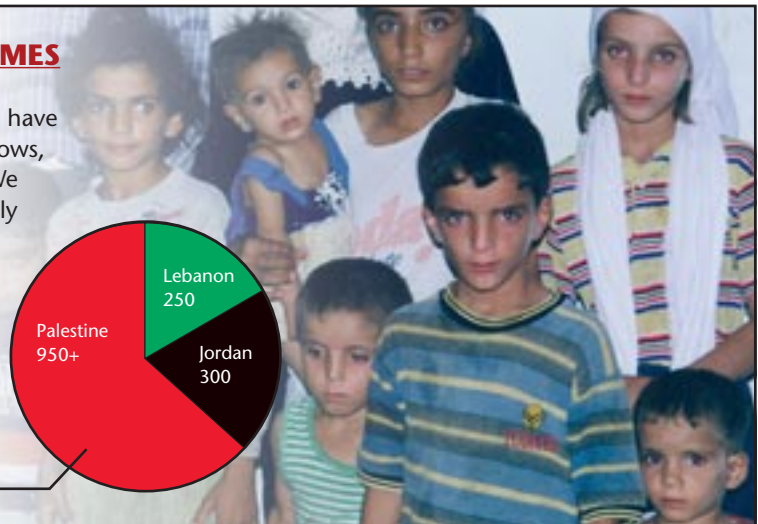
emergency aid such as food parcels, medical aid as part of the Emergency Aid Programme, the execution of our Ramadan Projects including the Feed the Fasting Programme (distribution of Food Parcels) and the provision of Collective *Iftars* and the distribution of Qurbani meat.

INTERPAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMMES

One of the biggest and most regular projects we have is the Sponsorship Programme in support of widows, orphans and needy children and poor families. We spent **£1.5 million** on this project alone. Currently Interpal sponsors in excess of 1,500 orphans and needy children, and manages the sponsorship of 2,500 others on behalf of our partners. Due to the continuing crisis we have expanded our **Sponsor an Orphan Programme** to include the sponsorship of needy and disabled children (see special feature on page 10).



Percentage of orphans sponsored in the areas of operation



INTERPAL QURBANI PROJECT

The generosity of our donors contributed to the success of Interpal's Qurbani Project this year, *Alhamdulillah*. We arranged for about 15,000 Qurbanis to be performed on behalf of our UK donors and those abroad, and implemented the project on behalf of about 15 charitable organisations worldwide. We spent just under **£150,000** performing Qurbanis inside Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon in order to distribute fresh meat to the poor and needy, and also to give them a sense of occasion during the 'Eidul-Adha' celebrations. In addition, about **£300,000** was expended on Qurbanis performed abroad. Some of the meat was cut into

portions, frozen and shipped to Palestine and the refugee camps to be distributed to the poor. The remainder was processed, canned and shipped for distribution.



Interpal's Fresh Qurbani Meat Programme, 2002.

Percentage of total funds distributed

INTERPAL RAMADAN PROJECT

Our Ramadan Project is divided into 3 programmes. They are the Feed the Fasting Programme which includes the distribution of Ramadan Food Parcels and the provision of Collective *Iftars* at Masjidil-Aqsa and other centres throughout our areas of operation. There is also the Distribution of 'Eid Gifts Programme that ensures that orphans, needy children and widows are able to share the joy of the celebrations. We also implement our Zakat and *Sadaqat* Distribution Programme which provides timely financial assistance to poor and needy families. Last year we spent in excess of £300,000 on these programmes, and this year we plan to double the figure to £600,000. The Feed the Fasting Programme which includes the distribution of Ramadan Food Parcels and the provision of Collective *Iftars* shall be allocated 35% of the funds, 15% of which is earmarked for the support of the local farmers and producers of foodstuff. 10% is for the *Fitrana* Distribution and 5% is for the 'Eid Gift Distribution. 50% is for the Zakatul-Mal Distribution Programme in support of needy families and the various different programmes of the beneficiary organisations.



Above: Contents of Interpal's Ramadan food parcels.

INTERPAL BENEFICIARIES IN THE HUMANITARIAN AID FIELD INCLUDE:

Here is a list of some of Interpal's beneficiaries:

- **Al-Islah Charitable Society**, Ramallah & Al-Bireh – Emergency Humanitarian Aid (food & medical supplies), Qurbani project and Ramadan campaign.
- **Al-Ram Zakat Committee**, Jerusalem – Emergency Aid (food parcels & financial support)
- **Al-Salah Charitable Association**, Gaza – Emergency Aid, sponsorship of orphans, Ramadan campaign and Qurbani project.
- **Al-Dheisha Refugee Camp Zakat Committee**, Bethlehem – Emergency Aid (financial support), sponsorship of orphans, Ramadan campaign and Qurbani project.
- **Islamic Charitable Society**, Hebron – Emergency Aid, sponsorship of orphans, Ramadan campaign and Qurbani project.
- **Islamic Society**, Gaza – Emergency Aid for those whose homes have been demolished, sponsorship of orphans, Ramadan campaign and Qurbani project.
- **Jenin Zakat Committee** – Emergency Aid following the siege of Jenin, re-housing for the homeless, sponsorship of orphans, Ramadan campaign and Qurbani project.
- **Mercy Association for Children**, Gaza – Sponsorship of orphans and needy children, and Ramadan project.
- **Orphans and Needy Welfare Society**, Jericho – Emergency Aid for needy families, sponsorship of orphans, Ramadan campaign and Qurbani project.
- **Qalqilya Society for the Disabled** – sponsorship of disabled children, Ramadan campaign and Qurbani project.
- **Ramallah Zakat Committee** – Emergency Aid including support for those whose homes have been destroyed, sponsorship of orphans, Ramadan campaign and Qurbani project.
- **Social Charitable Society**, Rafah – Sponsorship of needy families, the improvement of homes, and Ramadan project.
- **Tulkarem Zakat Committee** – Emergency Aid following the siege of Tulkarem, sponsorship of orphans, Ramadan campaign and Qurbani project.

Below left: Emergency Food Aid Distribution, April 2002.

Below centre: Interpal distributes food while supporting Palestinian farmers, Ramadan 2001

Below right: Distribution of canned Qurbani meat, 2001



Interpal's Aid to the Health & Medical Field

In the light of the prolonged and continued curfews, sieges and closures, Interpal responded to the appeals for emergency medical aid by immediately releasing **£200,000**. We were able to help set up emergency medical centres as well as provide first aid kits for paramedics and doctors. Funds were also spent on repairing damaged hospitals and clinics.

INTERPAL BENEFICIARIES IN THE HEALTH & MEDICAL FIELD INCLUDE:

- **Al-Makassed Hospital, Jerusalem** – Immediate Emergency Medical Aid.
- **Al-Razi Hospital, Jenin** – Support and repair costs for damaged building, and medical supplies.
- **Charitable Society for the Support of Palestinian Students, Gaza** – Provision of corrective glasses for needy students.
- **Ithna Zakat Committee, Hebron** – Medical treatment subsidy for the poor and needy.
- **Nusairat Camp Islamic Society** – Improving the capacity of the Medical Centre there.
- **Patients' Care Society, Gaza** – Support for Children's Clinic.
- **Taffouh Charitable Society, Hebron** – Development of Medical Centre.
- **Tarqoumia Zakat Committee, West Bank** – Setting up of a Maternity Clinic and Medical Lab.
- **Tulkarem Zakat Hospital** – Immediate Emergency Medical Aid.
- **Yaffa Medical Centre, Gaza** – Immediate Emergency Medical Aid and supplies.



Interpal's Support for the Education Field

Interpal recognises the importance of supporting education programmes in order to empower the youth of Palestine, and as a means of providing them with a better future, *Insha-Allah*. More than **£320,000** was distributed in this field in aid of Education programmes supporting the distribution of school kits, the provision of student aid and support for educational establishments such as sponsorship of academic staff.

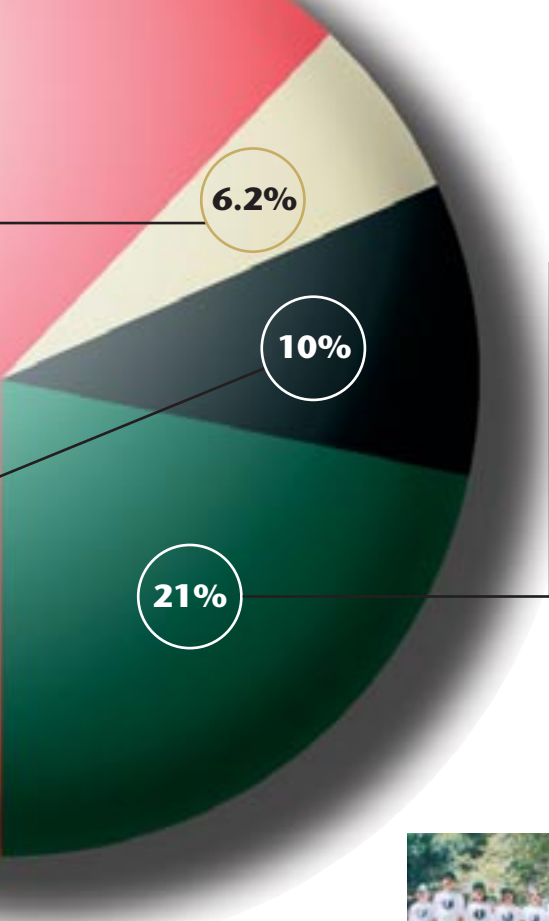
Top left: Medical supplies provided by Interpal, 2002.

Left: Interpal's work in the Education field brings joy to the children of Palestine - School Kit Programme, 2002.

Below: Interpal school kits being assembled before distribution, 2002.



Percentage of total funds distributed



Interpal's Contribution Towards the Community Development Field

More than **£700,000** was expended on Community Development Projects in support of local charities that serve the community, job creation programmes, care and rehabilitation programmes for the disabled and the elderly, as well as maintenance of religious and heritage sites.



Children at an Interpal supported Summer Camp, 2002

INTERPAL BENEFICIARIES IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FIELD INCLUDE:

- **Al-Lid Charitable Society**, Nablus – Construction of the Hope for the Disabled Centre building.
- **Al-Moustaqbal Association for Care and Rehabilitation for the Blind**, Gaza – Support for programmes for the blind.
- **Al-Mujamma' Al-Islami**, Gaza – Job creation programme.
- **Aqaba Village Mosque Committee**, Jenin – provision of the wash (*wudhu'*) facilities.
- **Arourah Cultural Centre**, Ramallah – Provision of computer equipment for the computer centre, and support for their Qur'an *Tahfiz* Programme.
- **Beit Oula Zakat Committee**, Hebron – Job creation programme.
- **Dar Al-Fadila Benevolent Home for Orphans**, Rafah – Construction of an orphan centre.
- **Dar Al-Qur'an Al-Kareem**, Gaza – Purchase of mini-bus.
- **Friends of the Blind Society**, Ramallah – Provision of equipment and staff costs.
- **Humanitarian Relief Association**, Beit Al-Maqdis – Job creation programme, purchase of 2 mini-buses for Masjidil-Aqsa and purchase of Waqf properties in Jerusalem.
- **Islamic Heritage Committee**, Jerusalem – Job creation programme (teachers and guides for Masjidil-Aqsa) and maintenance costs for Al-Yusufiyya Cemetery.
- **Islamic Society**, Jabalia – Construction of Orphan Centre.
- **Public Service Committee**, Gaza – Job creation programme.
- **Science and Cultural Centre**, Nusairat – Environment awareness job creation programme and rehabilitation of families and children who suffer psychological problems due to the traumas of the conflict.

INTERPAL BENEFICIARIES IN THE EDUCATION FIELD INCLUDE:

- **Al-Iman School**, Jenin – Repairs to damaged school building.
- **Al-Islah Charitable Society**, Jericho – School kits and financial assistance for poor students.
- **Al-Noor Nursery**, Al-Khader, Bethlehem – Subsidy for staff salaries.
- **Al-Quds University**, Jerusalem – Financial assistance for needy students.
- **Arab Women's Welfare Society**, Jerusalem – Student aid.
- **Beit Fajjah Zakat Committee**, Bethlehem – Provision of school kits and student aid.
- **Dura Charitable Society**, Hebron – School kits and student aid.
- **Gaza Zakat Committee** – Provision of School Kits.
- **Islamic University of Gaza** – Grants for needy students.
- **Noor Al-Marifah Charitable Society**, Gaza – Training teachers to teach children with special needs.
- **Jerusalem Central Zakat Committee** – Support for needy Students.
- **Khan Yunis Zakat Committee**, Gaza – School kits and student aid.
- **Kufur Rai Kindergarten**, Jenin – Subsidy for running costs.
- **Muslim Women's Society**, Gaza – Development training for teachers.
- **Student Friends Society**, Gaza – Student grants including for special hardship cases outside Palestine.
- **Yatta Zakat Committee**, Hebron – School kits and grants for needy students.



Construction work on the Orphan Centre in Jabalia, supported by Interpal

INTERPAL'S WORK IN JORDAN AND LEBANON

For Interpal helping Palestinians in need stretches far beyond Palestine. The people Interpal are trying to provide aid for include those living in the refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan where the level of poverty among Palestinian refugees is also about 70%, and the students who are stranded all over the world because their families are no longer able to support them. Whilst the focus has been on providing emergency aid and other relief to those inside Palestine, Interpal has not forgotten those outside.

Aid to Jordan

In the first 9 months of the year to September 2002, Interpal distributed in excess of **£200,000** in Jordan. The bulk of this was specified for the support of 250 orphans, disabled and needy children as part of our sponsorship programme. Other projects included improvements to a mosque in Al-Shobak, the provision of School Kits and student aid at Zarka University, as well as equipment for a computer centre for orphans in Amman.

Aid to Lebanon

More than **£200,000** has been distributed in Lebanon so far. The desperate living conditions mean that Palestinian refugees are having to do without even the most basic education, health, water and sanitation facilities. Interpal's efforts are therefore focused at providing care for orphans, medical health centres, student aid, social welfare and aid for needy families as well as water and sanitation facilities. One of the most important projects we are supporting is the small loans project to help empower poor and needy families.

It is our aim to increase aid to these oft forgotten refugees. This Ramadan we are pledging aid to Lebanon to the amount of **£150,000**. Apart from the regular sponsorship, Ramadan and Qurbani projects we also provided funds for the improvement of a mosque in Al-Rashidiyyah Refugee Camp. Our development aid to Lebanon includes the provision of funds for a water well to serve the residents of Al-Baddawi Refugee Camp (funded in conjunction with the Elrahma Trust, UK), small loans project and an Ozo sewage system in the Ein Al-Helwa Refugee Camp.

Interpal Small Loans Projects in Lebanon



Br. Zakariyya

Br. Zakariyya is a disabled Palestinian refugee living in Lebanon. He supports a family of 4 people. Interpal helped him through the small loans project by lending him US\$800 in March 2001 to adapt and repair his dilapidated car into a taxi. He has since re-paid US\$566.67¢ and is working hard to re-pay the rest.



Br. Nabil

In February 2001 Br. Nabil obtained a loan of US\$1,000 from Interpal's small loans project. It was the capital he needed to set himself up in a small business selling toys and stationery. In addition, he also repairs radio and television sets on the premises. He is now able to support his family of 8 members, and has now re-paid US\$800 of the loan so far.



Sr. Kamar

Being a refugee and a widow responsible for 3 children meant that life was very hard for Sr. Kamar. In February 2001 she obtained a loan of US\$1,000 from the small loans project, and set up a clothing shop in her home. Due to her hard work and business acumen she has been able to re-pay the loan in just 13 months, and has managed to improve her circumstances as well as that of her family.