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# 2020 COVID-19 Emergency Response



# COVID-19 Financial Grants

## Where:

United States

## When:

March – June 2020 | August – September 2020

## What We Did:

From March through June, in partnership with Celebrate Mercy, The Bay Area Zakat Collective, Zakat Fund of NYC, and ICNYU, we committed over \$1,477,450 to helping American families who have been financially impacted by COVID-19. We've provided cash assistance to families most in need. These checks enabled families to pay for their rent, utilities, medication, and transportation. We provided additional financial assistance from August to September in partnership with The Zakat Fund of NYC. We utilized our existing application process to identify families in need.

## Why We Did It:

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, low-income families continue to feel its effects. Loss of wages, unpaid sick leave, food insecurity, and rent are just a few of the burdens being felt by families.

## What We Achieved:

We gave out over \$1,507,200 in financial assistance grants to 1,415 families, benefitting 4,314 Americans. Assistance was given to families in 37 states across the country, with the majority of recipients in New York, Texas, and California. 1,052 recipients have an income of less than \$1,000 per month. Over 4,000 applications were submitted, underlining the need for assistance.



+4,310 Americans received aid



+\$1,507,200 has been distributed



+37 states were given assistance



I'm a single parent of two, a 13-year-old and a 5-year-old. I work on a strictly commission-only job where I have to meet with people on a day-to-day basis in close proximity. Since my job is deemed non-essential, I'm basically left without income. I will be using this money to keep a roof over my family's head, utilities, and food. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for the kind work and instilling faith in humanity—

I'll certainly pay it forward.

IHYANNA  
COVID-19 Grant Recipient



My children require and deserve my love, dedication, attention, and best self. Your gift allows me to continue to provide the stability that they deserve to function, grow, thrive, and succeed every day. Your time and gift is appreciated beyond what can be written here. Know you are helping to create lasting life long changes in our journey!

JAMI, CALIFORNIA  
COVID-19 Grant Recipient



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It is with unalloyed delight that I say Jazakallah khairan. Alhamdulillah, I remain in awe of Allah (SWT) and the generosity of the Muslim ummah (NYC Ramadan Relief Fund). My sincere commendation for your cause and support in these trying times.

As a single mother, the grant was timely and eased off a lot of burden. The nights became easier alhamdulillah. I was able to buy groceries, medications, pay my electricity bill, and partial payment of rent. I am optimistic and remain confident that the help of Allah is certain.

Thank you once again. May Allah continue to benefit you as you benefit mankind. May we be amongst those who will emulate you and give zakat next year.

FATEEMAH, COVID-19 Grant Recipient

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My family just received the grant you provided and we are exceptionally grateful. I knew I needed help when my eldest daughter started selling her daughter's items, such as the toys and crib, to buy groceries. I cannot work during this COVID-19 crisis and have not been able to even afford groceries for almost three weeks because prices are increased and bills were piling up. My daughters assured me and their mom that Allah was providing all we needed, Alhamdulillah. Our landlady frequently calls us for the rent and my mental stress was increasing. When I saw the check, for the first time ever in my life, I hugged my daughter with tears in my eyes. I was just so relieved I would be able to pay our rent and some bills, Alhamdulillah! Thank you so much for this assistance. We are grateful and Insha Allah will continue to make duaa for everyone involved in making this happen. May Allah swt reward you immensely.

HIRA, COVID-19 Grant Recipient

### Top 7 States Assisted



Texas



California



Virginia



New York



Georgia



New Jersey



Illinois

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I recently graduated and started working as an NYS substitute teacher. All was going great until the school system shut down along with the rest of the city in March. This left me scrambling for a job and a way to figure out how to survive on what I had left.

As of now I am still waiting on my unemployment insurance (it is now May) and thanks to the Zakat Fund of New York, I am able to survive a few more weeks while I try tirelessly to get hired locally to avoid taking public transportation.

Thank you so much for helping me get through this truly awful time. Please know that I am forever grateful and if your organization is ever in need of volunteers please know that you can count me in!

LIZ, COVID-19 Grant Recipient

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My wife and I came to US as asylees a couple of years back. My wife got her first job in the US as a temporary Kindergarten teacher in December last year and in the same month I became severely ill and unable to work. I waited a month to be able to get back to work but I couldn't and I had to apply for food stamps in January 2020 and later for cash assistance.

As of the first week of May, we have not received food stamps, cash assistance, our stimulus check or unemployment insurance, but NYC Zakat Fund which we just applied to weeks ago is the most honest, reliable, and fast help that we are to receive. We need the fund solely for food and medicine until the jobs start again and we will spend the rest of the fund for the rent and loans.

I and my family are so grateful to the NYC Zakat fund for their help in this hardest time.

MUHAMMAD, COVID-19 Grant Recipient

# Bangladesh COVID-19 Response

**Where:**  
Bangladesh

**When:**  
May – September 2020

**What We Did:**  
We worked to address the effects of COVID-19 on Rohingya refugees holistically. We operated health posts to provide primary health care services, supply essential medicines, PPE, disinfection materials, and infectious disease surveillance. We renovated health camps and equipped them with the required facilities such as respiratory corners. We also conducted door-to-door outreach visits to enhance COVID-19 prevention.

**Why We Did it:**  
The Rohingya people have faced decades of systematic discrimination, denied citizenship, and targeted violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Consequently, hundreds of thousands have been forced to flee to bordering Bangladesh for refuge. Cox's Bazar has since become the world's largest refugee settlement, hosting over 900,000 refugees across 34 camps.

In addition to the humanitarian crisis, 2020 has brought a critical challenge in the form of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The virus threatens the health of the nearly 1 million Rohingya people living in Cox's Bazar, in crowded and unhygienic conditions. Bangladesh announced lockdown measures for the district in early April, however, in the camp setting, Rohingya communities have very little access to information either about the virus or how to protect themselves from it. For those who are aware, social distancing and isolation are nearly impossible practices in the cramped conditions.

**What We Achieved:**  
72,000 Rohingya refugees were given better tools to fight the spread of COVID-19 through primary health care services.



+72,000 Rohingya refugees received aid

