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Mercy-USA News

February 2025 • Volume 31 Issue 1

Yemen: Recovery Feels Out of Reach

Even with a tenuous truce, Yemenis are suffering. Displacement, localized conflict and other economic pressures are causing hopeless misery. Yemen is known to be one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world. The blockade against the country's crude exports and the value of the Yemeni Rial

has depreciated so much that the prices for basic goods such as food are beyond reach for millions in the country. Over half of the country's population depends on humanitarian assistance. This heavy reliance on humanitarian aid at a time when relief organizations have been insufficiently...*Cont. next page*

Mercy-USA for Aid and Development

is a nonprofit relief and development organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering and supporting individuals and their communities in their efforts to become more self-sufficient.

Incorporated in 1988, Mercy-USA's projects focus on improving health, nutrition and access to safe water, as well as promoting economic and educational growth around the world.

- Special Consultative Status with the United Nations
- Member of InterAction

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The war in Yemen has created a cascade of complications for recovery

Continued from page 1... funded leaves the poorest families truly desperate.

Over 4.5 million Yemenis have been displaced from their homes. Due to the negative economic pressure and other factors on families to simply survive, returning to their homes is often impossible either because they can't afford the move, it is still not safe to return, or their home may have been destroyed. Displacement keeps people from their livelihoods and the ability to feed and educate their children.

According to the United Nations, "Yemen also remains one of the most contaminated countries globally by landmines and explosive remnants of war and has the third highest number of casualties stemming from these threats over the past ten years." Contamination by landmines and explosives makes it difficult, if not impossible, for families to return to their homes to rebuild their communities. Farming and other small industries can't happen if there are still landmines present.



According to the World Food Bank, over 17 million Yemenis face food insecurity, with 3.5 million experiencing severe malnutrition. Sadly, because of extreme poverty many children are forced into working to help the family survive.

Mercy-USA is providing monthly food baskets to some of the poorest people in Yemen. We are committed to providing plentiful and nutritious food to families who have been hardest hit by this crisis.



Sustainable Projects for Rohingya Refugees

Bhasan Char, translated in English from Bengali means, floating island. Only 25 square miles, the low-lying island was formed from silt deposits in the Bay of Bengal, 37 miles from Bangladesh’s mainland. It’s known as a floating island due to the constantly shifting coastline. The island can only be accessed by boat or helicopter.

At the end of 2020, the Bangladesh government began relocating Rohingya refugees from Cox’s Bazar to Bhasan Char. The settlement consists of block housing and not much else. Currently, over 35,629 Rohingya live on the island and subsist primarily on humanitarian aid. Some refugees say they feel safer on the island compared in the overcrowded Cox’s Bazar and others say that they feel as if they

are imprisoned on the island given government restrictions on their movement.

To make the situation worse, in 2023, worldwide aid funding shortfalls caused the food rations to be cut by 30% on Bhasan Char. While major funders such as the EU have striven to fill the gaps, the problem of food security remains.

Mercy-USA has launched a livelihood project on the island that is helping families become more self-sufficient. The project consists of various aspects of agriculture and aquaculture support.

Sustenance Farms

Mercy-USA worked with 100 selected families to cultivate land on the island to grow crops in demand on the island. We provided

the families with seeds, tools and training. The training included, soil preparation, pest management, crop rotation, and water-efficient farming practices to maximize the yield and diversity of crops grown. These families not only provided for their households, but the farmers were also able to sell their crops earning an average of \$100 per household, which allowed them to purchase non-food items like educational materials, clothing and household goods.

The Mercy-USA managed farm provided 1.5 tons of vegetables to 500 more families on the island. The access to fresh produce is a part of a healthy diet that is not always possible when relying on shelf-stable food baskets.

Nur Mostafa, one of the participants

in the Vegetable Garden Project, shared her success story. Last season, she sold green chilis in the market for \$700 and other crops for \$300. This income has been crucial for her family, allowing them to buy additional necessities and improve their living conditions. Her success exemplifies the positive impact this project has had on individual families. Not only does her garden provide her family with more of what they need for health, education and nutrition, Nur feels she has a dignified life again since fleeing Myanmar, “This garden has given me hope and a way to stand on my feet again.”

Aquaculture Project

To promote sustainable nutrition on the island, Mercy-USA has embarked on a fish farming program. We began by stocking a nearby freshwater lake with fish which has resulted in a sustainable aquatic ecosystem. In October 2024, a yield of more than 2,200 pounds of fish was harvested for the community. The fresh fish not only provided highly nutritious food, but it has also begun the groundwork for income generation through aquaculture for the refugees. “For the first time in months, my children are eating nutritious meals regularly,” Amir Hakim remarked. He now looks forward to scaling up the fish farm to ensure consistent benefits for all.



Cease-Fire in Gaza Leaves Most Families Still Hungry

Since the cease-fire in Gaza, Mercy-USA's on-the-ground partner, the Agricultural & Environmental Development Society, AED has not reported a decrease in families in need. Gaza families continue to require help with basics like the daily meals and bread we provide. While thankfully, the fighting and bombs have stopped, the need for nutritious food has not. Mercy-USA is committed to continue to support the daily food needs of hundreds of families in central Gaza until the need disappears.

Hurricane Milton Relief

In the aftermath of back-to-back hurricanes in Florida, Mercy-USA deployed a team to assist communities impacted by the storms. In partnership with, and the volunteers from Muslim Women's Organization in Orlando and Tampa Muslim Disaster Response, we were able to provide essentials like bleach, detergent, diapers and other hygiene products to families in Tampa and Kissimmee, FL. In addition, we distributed gift cards directly to families so they could restock spoiled food from the power outages and make repairs from storm damage to their homes.



Mercy-USA Provides Help with Winter Support in MI

As temperatures dropped in Michigan, Mercy-USA has remained firm in its commitment to help those struggling with homelessness in the state. Mercy-USA's Winter Warmth Drive in December, 2024, saw even more folks who were helped by this vital initiative. The number of people who received assistance increased in part thanks to the generosity of Burlington Coat Factory, Shelby Junior High School, and Huda School.

With help from over 20 volunteers, 350 kits were packed for those in need. Each pack included socks, hats, gloves, scarves, blankets, and hand warmers. After the successful packaging event, the kits were distributed to public schools, shelters, and warming centers.

These donations stocked up a resource room for children and their families at Greenfield Union Elementary, as well as providing for residents at Mercy House and the Delonis Center in Ann Arbor. The bulk of donations went to Detroit Rescue Mission, which serves over 100 people daily across multiple locations.

In addition to the 350 winter warmth kits, we also provided \$50 Meijer gift cards, based on the highest level of need, to purchase jackets and other winter necessities. This collaborative effort shows the power of community partnerships, bringing warmth and support to those in need during the harsh winter months.



Where We Work • mercyusa.org



Bangladesh & Rohingya Refugees

Emergency Relief
Livelihood Support
Seasonal food aid



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Vocational and career training for orphans, at-risk teens and young adults
Assistance to special needs students
Read to Succeed program for school-age children



The Gaza Strip

Food Aid
Emergency Relief
With grant funding to UNRWA, support for a special school for blind and visually-impaired elementary school-aged children.
Health and vision screenings



Kenya

Seasonal food aid
Emergency Relief



Lebanon

Mobile Medical Clinic for Syrian Refugees and their hosts in Wadi Khalid
Nutritional support for mothers and children
Emergency Relief
Seasonal food aid



Pakistan

Seasonal food aid
Emergency Relief



Somalia

Approximately 800 new or rehabilitated wells and other water resources for access to clean drinking water throughout Somalia including emergency drought relief
Nutritional support and health services for mothers and children
Hygiene and sanitation training and promotion
Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention



United States

Seasonal food aid
Support for refugees
Support for Detroit area disadvantaged students
Emergency Relief



Yemen

Food aid
Emergency Relief

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