

Annual Report

2021 | 1442



In the Name of The Almighty, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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Educate | Empower | Enlighten

Message from the CEO

My dear respected brothers and sisters. What a year it has been! I don't feel it is right for me to write about who I am, where the story of Rahma begins or how far we have come on this journey. The year 2020 was far from ordinary, with months of trials and tribulations. It was a year of testing times, a year of sorrow, a year of hardship and a year of uncertainty. Many lives have been lost. Covid-19 did not only affect a nation, it made an impact on the entire world. We pray to The Almighty to grant those that have passed away the highest place in Jannah and to elevate their status. May The Almighty ease the pain of those suffering.

Since last Ramadhan, here at Rahma, we have been overwhelmed by your continuous support. Through your generous donations, we have been able to spread our aid to even more families in the Balkans. You have eased the burden of many orphans, widows and the impoverished. With your support, we were able to continue with the educational projects and most importantly, remain focused on giving da'wah to our brothers and sisters. The Rahma Team and I, cannot thank you enough for your generosity through these tough times.

Over the years, we have worked with many organisations to increase the aid in the Balkans. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Al-Imdaad Foundation, Issa Foundation, Emdee Charitable Trust, One Nation, Abdullah Aid and Mercy 2 Humanity for their ongoing support in helping to empower Islam.

Finally, I would like to thank The Almighty who has made all this possible and for giving us this opportunity. May He accept what little we have done and may it be a means of entry into Jannah. I would like to thank my committed team who work tirelessly day and night in the UK and the Balkans. Their dedication and enthusiasm is what makes Rahma what it is today. Last but not the very least, I am grateful to my teachers, parents and family who have supported me from day one with their continuous prayers to strive on this journey.



KPatel

Imam Khalil Patel

Orphan Project

When the father of a child passes away, they not only lose a leading figure but they also lose the love, guidance, lessons, and security a father brings to a child's life. At Rahma, we strive to support these orphans, with the help of our sponsors, to give aid in various forms. This could be financial aid, food parcels, blankets, clothing, etc.

When an orphan sees the love and generosity of others helping them with their day-to-day requirements, it brings a sense of comfort to their heart knowing there are people out there willing to help them purely for the sake of The Almighty, despite never meeting them. The orphans always say to us how much they pray for the sponsors and by having your support they do not feel like they are missing out compared to their friends who still have their fathers.

The rewards for someone who helps an orphan can only be given by The Almighty, this same action is also a great means of Sadaqah.

The beloved Prophet (PBUH) told us,

'Give charity without delay, for it stands in the way of calamity' – Tirmidhi.

Sponsoring an orphan costs £25 per month (£300 per year)

Every sponsor will receive a profile introducing them to the orphan and at the end of each year, they will receive a report with updates about how the orphan has been doing.









Food Aid

During 47 years under the command of Enver Hoxha, the Albanian community fell into deep poverty and despair. Families struggled with some of the main basic essentials such as shelter, water and food. From the beginning, this project has aimed to reach every single person across the Balkans. Last year, the global pandemic meant that the families already living under difficult conditions were pushed further into poverty. Rahma was called upon by the local government to not only help the existing beneficiaries, but to extend the aid further across the Balkans.

Despite not being able to distribute aid in Kosovo, we managed to reach more than 12,000 families. Each pack contained a mixture of Rice, Flour, Sugar, Pasta, Cooking Oil, Salt, Lentils, Sauce and Juice.

Donate £30 today to feed a family of four for the entire month.



Madrasa Project

The Prophet (PBUH) said, **“The seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim.”** – Tirmidhi

When Rahma first started working in the Balkans, it was clear that one area we had to focus on, was reviving Islam back into the lives of locals. This project was set up to ensure the future generations had an opportunity to regain their Islamic identity not only by their name, but by the way they present themselves.

In the UK, our children are sent to study in Madrasa for two hours every day during the week. From the age of five, they are taught different aspects of Islam and are guided on putting the knowledge into practice in their daily schedule. Every week, at least 10 hours are spent learning about the fundamentals of our beautiful religion. Unfortunately, this is not the same for our children in the Balkans who only receive four hours of education on a weekly basis.

To support a Madrasa, it costs £210 per month

To sponsor a student, it costs £12.50 per month





Hifz Project

“The best among you is the one who learns the Qur’an & teaches it” – Bukhari

The Messenger (PBUH) has said that for every letter recited from the Qur’an, we will receive 10 good deeds. If this is what we have been promised for reciting the Qur’an, imagine the reward for the one who teaches a person how to read or provides an opportunity for someone to learn to read.

Through the pandemic in 2020, our students managed to continue their studies online. This meant that there were minimal disruptions to their important Islamic education. In December 2020, we had two girls from our Hifz class in Elbasan who completed the memorisation of the Holy Qur’an. They are now doing revision and our UK team will take their exams after Ramadhan, when it is safe to travel.

To sponsor a Hifz boarding student, it costs £100 per month.

To sponsor a day time Hifz student, it costs £250 per year.

Imam & Muallimah Course

'Give a man a fish, he will eat for a day. Teach a man how to fish, he will eat forever.'

This famous quote perfectly describes the aim of this project. We are not only teaching young boys and girls the fundamentals of Islam; we are providing them with the tools they need to go spread the knowledge across the Balkans. The students that graduate are open to many opportunities, whether they choose to stay in Albania or move away to further their studies. In 2020, we set up the Muallimah course in order to have our own teachers to prepare for when we open the Rahma Institute.

The cost to sponsor an Imam Or Muallimah is £100 per month.

Each sponsorship will consist of the accommodation, food, education, books and transport.



Imam Testimonial

"My name is Adnan Bala and I am 20 years old from Elbasan, Albania. I want to share with you all a little bit of my story, starting from when I was a young boy in Madrasa. I am from a family of religious elders and I always dreamed of following the same path as my Grandfather, Father and Uncle in teaching Islam to many people. My first teacher in my village was my Uncle. This was when I first met with Rahma (Mercy). Many groups used to come visit us and they would give us different examinations.

As little children, we were very happy to see them regular, but we also used to be scared of their clothing style and big beards. Whenever we saw them, they had big smiles on their faces and would motivate us to keep doing well in our studies. This made us feel like they were our own family and we were always excited to see them and welcome them in our village.

The most important year in my life for me is 2015. This is when Rahma first came with news of the new Imam course they were planning to open. As soon as I heard about this, I said to myself Yes, that is exactly what I want to do.

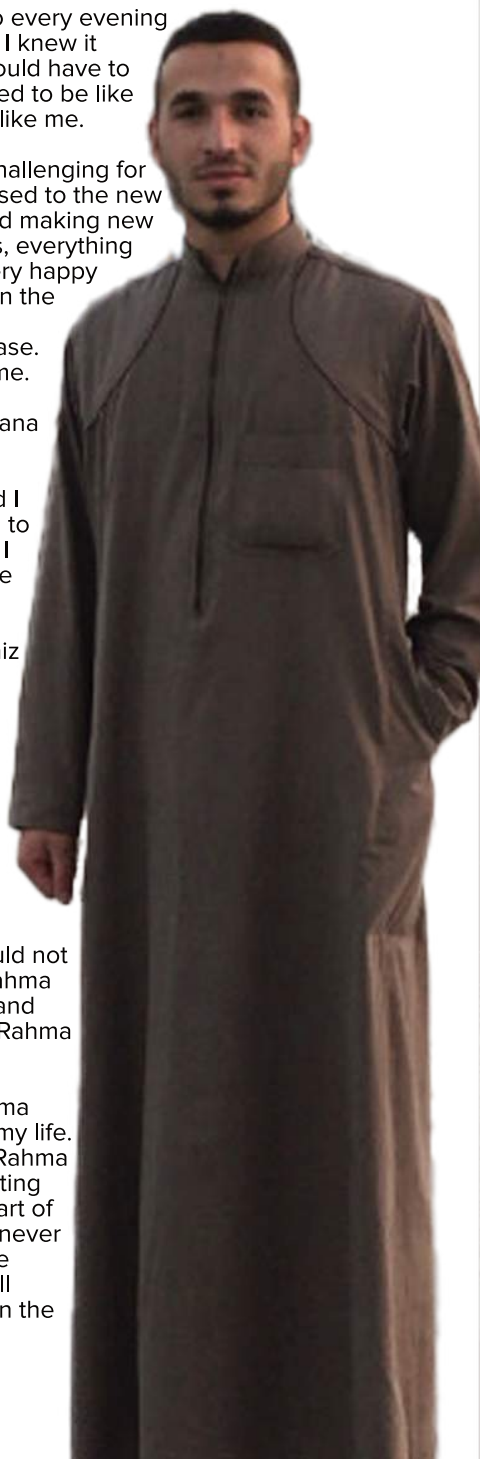
My father was a teacher with Rahma as well so every evening I would speak with him about this new course. I knew it would be hard to leave my family and also I would have to do school work as well but, in my head, I wanted to be like my father, to teach and motivate little children like me.

In my time studying on this course, the most challenging for me was adapting to the new system, getting used to the new teachers, staying in a dorm with other boys and making new friends. Once I had made friends with my class, everything started to become easier and all of us were very happy to be at that place. We used to make mistake in the beginning and all the Rahma staff were by our sides, guiding us and making sure we felt at ease. We missed our home but this was our 2nd home.

One person I want to mention is Teacher Moulana Imran Afzal. In my final year, he pushed me to study well and aim for good grades. All the desires and inspiration are because of him and I fell more and more in love with Islam. I wanted to be part of such good people like him because I had never met anyone like this before. With the help from The Almighty, I completed my high school studies and also graduated from the Imam course. I applied to be part of the Akdeniz University in Antalya to study the Islamic Sciences. I was accepted and went to study there.

After studying in Turkey for more than 2 years, I have received acceptance form a University in Medina which is a dream come true for me. I have reached here by not only my skills but with the help of The Almighty, the motivation from my family, the incredible support from the Rahma teachers and with my friends by my side. I would not have been able to reach here if it wasn't for Rahma (Mercy). I look forward to finishing my studies and returning to my country, Albania, to be part of Rahma and follow in the path of my family.

I still keep in touch with my teachers from Rahma and their advice keeps me moving forward in my life. I will end my saying thank you to everyone in Rahma for the amazing work they are doing in supporting the youth, helping people in need, for being part of our family and for coming into our life. We will never be able to repay you for all the things you have done for Albania but I am sure the Almighty will grant you what you deserve in this world and in the everlasting heaven.”







House Construction

Many houses in the Balkans are very old and do not meet the basic requirements of safety. In addition to this, the economic situation is very bad and many people cannot afford decent housing.

In the past year we were able to build houses for two families and we are grateful for our donors that supported these projects.

The average cost to build a house is approximately £20,000 and this includes an open plan kitchen and lounge, two bedrooms and a bathroom.

Get in touch with us today for further information on how you can assist us in this project.

Rahma School

Based in Elbasan, Albania, the Rahma Academy has been the central base for all our projects since its opening in 2013. Hosting one of the country's leading schools, it has gained a positive reputation amongst the communities across Albania. For parents, it is in one of their top choices when considering education options for their child. For students, it is the opportunity to shape their future and a step towards breaking out of the poverty cycle towards a brighter career. For teachers, it's a chance to showcase their skills and share their knowledge with students of all ages.

Each student will work through a syllabus in line with other government schools. After school and over the weekends, the school is open to all for extracurricular classes such as, Information Technology (IT), English Language and Islamic Studies. More than 100 scholarships have been provided to date and we aim to increase this by 50% over the next two years.

To sponsor a child's education in the Rahma School, it costs only £42 per month.





Masjid Construction

In September 2020, Rahma was approached by a family in Leicester looking to build a Masjid in memory of a relative who had returned to The Almighty. Our team in Albania located an area where almost 400 Muslim families stayed, with no Masjid established. In March 2021, the foundation for our 27th Masjid was laid and construction has already begun.

The Prophet (PBUH) said; **“Whoever builds a mosque seeking The Almighty’s pleasure, The Almighty will build for him likewise in Paradise.”** – Sahih al-Bukhari





Visit Albania

As a charity, we like to assure our donors and supporters that their funds are being used for the intended causes. One of the ways that we do this, is by organising group visits to Albania so that you can see the results of your contributions. Along with this, you can personally experience distributing aid to those in need and see the projects we have worked on all these years. Unfortunately, the pandemic has meant that we have not been able to take any groups out since February 2020. As soon as it is safe to do so, we will begin planning our next trip. If you are interested in joining us on a trip, please get in touch with our offices.



Islamic Literature

From the time we opened our very first Madrasa, over 20 years ago, we have been providing all our students with free books when they enrol in our Madrasas. This is to ensure that we are fulfilling our duty of furthering the message of Islam to our brothers and sisters in the Balkans. We also provide Qur'an's that have been translated into the Albanian language to the wider communities.

Each set costs only £20

This consists of 8-syllabus books, 1 Arabic Alphabet book and a Qur'an. Your support will help us to spread the message of Islam.



hur Muhamedi
ose i ka pranuar.



Ai njeri që nuk e mb...

Një premtim kryeni këtë veprim përmbushni gënjeshtar,

Allahu te'ala

"Është shumë e urryer për All-llahun të thoni atë që nuk Para se të bëjmë një premtim ne duhet të mendojmë, a reale ta kryejmë këtë veprim? Nëse përgjigja është "po duhet të mbajmë premtimin e dhënë dhe të përpiqem atë dhe nëse përgjigja është jo, atëherë ne duhet të nënsinor premti

i pafe.

patjetër duhet tim verbal duhe ntimin e tij është nuk ishte i aftë



rahma
 THIS WATER WELL HAS
 JAARIYAH
 MARHOOM RUKSHANA
 THE PEOPLE
 KY PUS ESHTA HAPUR
 RUKSHANA OMAR
 DOBI BANORIVE TE
 SADAKA E RRI
 JULY 2020



Water Well

Water is fundamental to life, yet even today millions of people, already struggling against poverty, lack access to clean and safe water sources. We empower communities by giving them the means to improve the quality of their lives as well as their social and economic prospects. We can only do that with the help of our donors. Reliable access to safe, clean water means that drinking, cooking, washing, watering crops and animals and purifying oneself no longer pose a risk of illness. Clean and safe water improves health. It provides security and stability which enables beneficiaries to pursue their livelihood. For a donor who provides clean water, there are the rewards of ongoing blessings for themselves and their loved ones.

Sa'd ibn Ubadah asked The Prophet (PBUH), **“Umm Sa'd has died; what form of Sadaqah is best?”** He replied: **“Water (is best).”** He dug a well and said: **“It is for Umm Sa'd.”** – Sunan Abi Dawud

Providing water in this way is a very good way of offering a Sadaqah Jaariyah (continuous charity) as you can expect to reap The Almighty's blessing for as long as the well supplies water. To date we have built 205 water wells across Kosovo and Albania. With your support, we can continue to provide access across the Balkans.

It costs £1,300 to build a well. We also present a plaque at the site for donors which can include a message on your behalf.

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Rahma has been supporting the Nahla Centre for Education and Research to help clarify the negative perceptions of Islam within the society in Bosnia & Herzegovina and to empower women for many years. Through your support we were again able to fund the education of 150 beneficiaries to enable them to study various Islamic Disciplines and cover the basic and advanced teachings of these areas. This has helped many women in the understanding of their faith and how they can positively impact their society along with helping them to advance their research.

Help us to empower our beneficiaries by donating £60/ student for the course fees of an entire year.





Winter Appeal

Think back to December 2020. The days were short, the nights were cold, and we had snow! There wasn't a day that went by without the heating being switched on. We would be wrapped up in thick blankets and drinking hot chocolate. However, for majority of our brothers and sisters in the Balkans, the story was very different!

Due to this sad reality, the winter project was set up to provide poor and needy families with essentials so that they could keep warm during the winter. With the amazing support of you, our donors, and with the help of the UK organisation, One Nation, we were able to help almost 800 families with a Winter Pack in Kosovo and Albania.

The packs were made up of Food Aid, Blankets, Winter Clothing and Firewood.

The Prophet (PBUH) said, **“If any believer clothes a believer when he is naked, The Almighty will clothe him from the green garments of Paradise...”** – Abu Dawud





Local Projects

Prisons

Over the past year, Rahma has been supporting prisons throughout the UK by providing books that contain the basic teachings of Islam and Qur'ans for the Albanian speaking community. We are looking to further our work and hope to provide support by having our own Albanian speaking 'Ulama to deliver lectures and support the rehabilitation process of the inmates.

Zam Zam & Dates

Rahma has been providing a great service by making Zam Zam water available for the benefit of the community at large. Unfortunately, many of us haven't been able to travel to the holy lands. Despite this we will endeavour to make sure we try our best to continue to provide the holy water. Alongside this, we also sell fresh dates in order to make it convenient for our donors to purchase both items from one place.



Financial Summary

Total Income | Year Ending March 2020

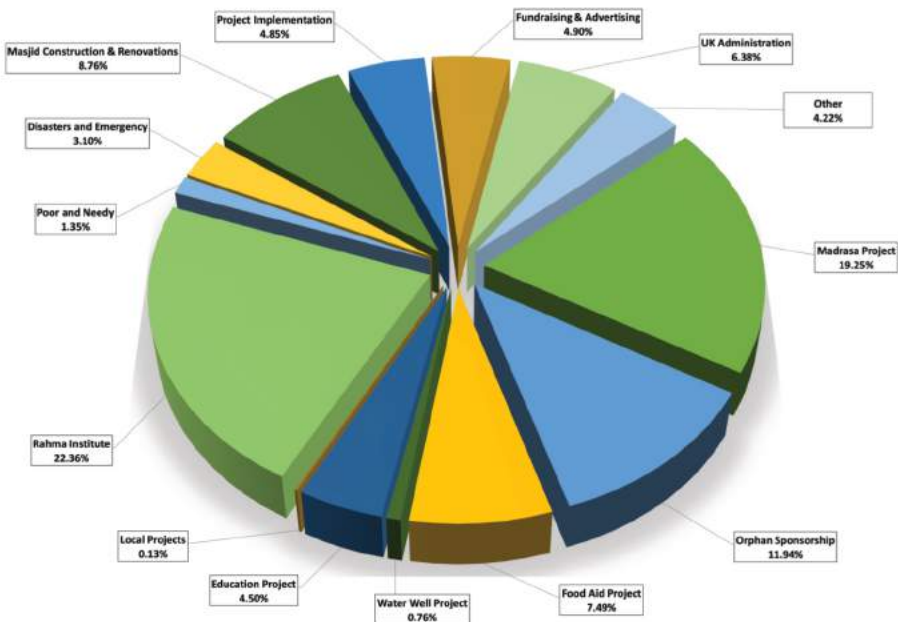
£2,220,062

Total Expenditure | Year Ending March 2020

£2,303,969

How we use your funds:

Rahma (Mercy) is committed to spending all donations for its intended purpose. It is for this reason that we use income accrued from the government's Gift Aid scheme along with our shop sales, clothes bank and donations specified for admin to cover our admin expenses. We also use, non specified Lillah and Nafil Sadaqah funds to deliver and implement our projects. Please support us to utilise your funds for its intended purpose by signing up to the Gift Aid scheme if you are a UK tax payer and by continuing to donate generously towards our running costs.



Excess expenditure was made possible due to surplus funds that were held from the previous year.

How You Can Make A Difference



Debit/Credit Card:

Call +44 (0)116 251 6959



Post:

Cheques/Postal Orders payable to "Rahma (Mercy)" (please indicate the donation type and project on the back of the cheque), then post to:

Rahma (Mercy), 56 Hartington Road, Leicester, LE2 0GN.



Standing Order:

Fill out the donation form to make regular donations by bank standing order.



Online Donations:

Please visit our website: www.rahmamercy.org.uk



Bank Transfer:

Transfer money directly to:

Rahma (Mercy)
Barclays Bank
Sort Code: 20-49-17
Account Number: 10537330

For international transfers:

Rahma (Mercy)
IBAN: GB73 BARC 2049 1710 5373 30
SWIFTBIC: BARCGB22



Online Fundraising:

There are many ways you can fundraise for Rahma (Mercy). If you would like help setting up a page, get in touch with our head office on 0116 251 6959 or email us at info@rahmamercy.org.uk

JustGiving

givebrite

 MuslimGiving

facebook

amazon**smile**

PayPal
Giving Fund

General Appeals

Zakat and Sadaqah Wajibah Projects (Lillah also accepted)

Most Needy

Any amount

Food Aid

Iftar - £30 a month

Madrassa Students Food Aid - £10 a pack

Fidyah / Kaffarah - £3 to feed a person

Qurbani - £100 per animal

Orphan Sponsorship

Albania/Kosovo/Macedonia/Serbia - £25/month
OR £300/year

Student Sponsorship

Madrassa Student Sponsorship - £12.50/month or
£150/year

Hifz Sponsorship (Boarding) - £1,200 annually

Imam Course Sponsorship (Boarding) - £1,200
annually

Muallimah Course Sponsorship - £1,200 annually

Rahma School Student Sponsorship - £41.66/
month or £500/year

Nahla Centre Student Sponsorship - £60/year

Islamic Literature

Madrassa Book Sets - £15 a set

Arabic Alphabet Book Set - £1.50 a set

Qur'an Project - £3.50

Poor and Needy

Water Project - £1,300

Lillah and Sadaqah Projects

Institutions

Rahma Institute - £120 per square meter

Rahma Institute - £240 - 1 pallets of bricks

Rahma Academy Maintenance - Any amount

Nahla Education Centre (Bosnia) - Any amount

Masjid Construction - £60,000

Masjid Renovation - Any amount

Other Projects

Food Bank Project - Any amount

Aqeeqah - £100

Administration - Any amount

Get in Touch

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WIN A TRIP TO ALBANIA

*Collect the most direct
debits to win*

*Competition End Date:
16th July 2021*

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Competition will run from 12th April 2021 to 16th July 2021.
2. All direct debit forms must be sent to DD Competition, 56 Hartington Road, Leicester, LE2 0GN or emailed to events@rahmamercy.org.uk
3. Each direct debit must be a minimum of £5/month.
4. The minimum term for each direct debit must be 12 months.
5. The prizes eligible are for 1 person per prize.
6. The maximum duration of the trip will be 5 days.
7. The prize includes flight and accommodation provided by Rahma (Mercy) BUT excludes UK airport transfer.
8. Direct Debit forms can be downloaded from our website at: <https://rahmamercy.org.uk/other-ways-to-donate/>
9. You must include your name, address and contact number with the direct debit forms.
10. All participants under the age of 18 must have parental/guardian consent before taking part. For further information, please call us.