

A close-up photograph of a woman with a warm, joyful expression. She is wearing a brown and beige patterned headscarf. Her face is partially framed by a light-colored wooden structure, possibly a door or window frame. She has a small gold nose ring and is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. The background is dark and out of focus.

# **CHILDREN AND WOMEN**





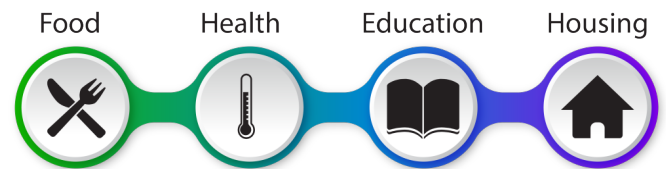
Conservative estimates suggest that there are over four million orphaned children in Pakistan. The loss of the main breadwinner brings tremendous hardships and suffering to orphan children and their mothers. Often, children are forced out of school to work, sometimes at risk to their own safety, at hazardous places.

Islamic Relief supports these families with dignity and care in a variety of ways. A sponsorship programme provides the whole family with the essential necessities, including food, shelter, healthcare and psychological support. Additionally, education costs up to the age of 18 are covered and if an orphan has good academic potential, we also support them through higher education.

Not only has this initiative contributed to decreasing school dropouts, it has also played a significant role in reducing early child marriages among orphan girls.

Where mothers or guardians work as domestic servants, the sponsorship enables them to reduce their working hours so they can spend more time with their children - and move to better quality housing.

#### Families are also supported by:



- Mobilising faith leaders and creating community groups to help stop the exploitation of women and children
- Empowering mothers with key skills and support to set up businesses and secure employment
- Providing women and children access to government health sahulat (facility) cards
- Rehabilitating schools in slums, helping street children to get an education and open up new possibilities for them

**Through supporting families and empowering women, we're working to give each child a brighter, happier future.**

  
**OVER**  
**6,000 FAMILIES**  
**have been supported**  
**so far since 1993**

