



## Country Annual Report 2024

### Muslim Aid Association/Bosnia and Herzegovina

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## Abbreviations:

BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CBM	Community Based Project
CWD	Children with Disabilities
FBiH	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INGO	International Non-government Organisation
LDSC	Letter Days Saints Charities
MA	Muslim Aid
MAA	Muslim Aid Association
NGO	Non-government Organisations
PWD	Person with Disabilities
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
WASH	Water and Sanitation

# 2024 Country Annual Report

## 1. Country Office Background

<b>Office Name/ Organisation:</b>	Muslim Aid Association (MAA)
<b>Country:</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Report Year:</b>	2024
<b>Project Locations:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Tuzla Canton</li><li>2. Zenica-Doboj Canton</li><li>3. Sarajevo Canton</li><li>4. Bosnian-Podrinje Canton</li><li>5. Herzegovina-Neretva Canton</li><li>6. Central Bosnia Canton</li><li>7. Una-Sana Canton</li><li>8. Republic of Srpska</li></ol>
<b>Population type supported:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IDPs in Jablanica and Konjic</li><li>• CWDs</li><li>• Orphans</li><li>• Widows</li><li>• Returnees</li><li>• Public kitchen users</li><li>• Elderly</li><li>• Unemployed</li><li>• Low income families</li></ul>
<b>Date received and DM: (MA HQ Use only)</b>	31/01/2025

### Important notes:

- Review the guidelines notes to support the description of the sections.
- The font type is Calibri (Body) 11, Black.
- All photos included in the report must be submitted in their original format as a separate document.





MAA in BiH pledged to implement programmes in supporting the needy and the most vulnerable people throughout the whole country under the four thematic areas: Emergency, Economic Empowerment, Education and Seasonal Programmes. Under its strategy to alleviate poverty, MAA in BiH provided around 1.025.000 GBP in 2024 worth of assistance to over 13.000 direct vulnerable and impoverished beneficiaries in need, out of which are approximately 11.000 direct projects beneficiaries funded by MAUK.

The main funding revenues came from the following donors: MAUK (24%), MAUSA and MA Sweden jointly (15%), LDSC Church (25%), Local Municipalities and Beneficiaries jointly (35%).

With the aim to alleviate the poverty, under the Economic Empowerment Programmes Muslim Aid in BiH primarily focuses on sustainable livelihood development that can achieve long term results by provision of skill training, tools and opportunities for economic and food security through agriculture, farming, beekeeping and rural development. Our beneficiaries include internal displaced persons, marginalized women, young people, persons with disabilities, unemployed, families living in rural areas and returnees. Even though these projects are not directly funded by MAUK in 2024, they will be continued in 2025.

Education is fundamental to creating a peaceful society, and education serves as a pathway to human development and empowerment and creates new possibilities to yield important development benefits. Muslim Aid recognizes that “Everyone has the right to education” including CWDs. So, all children should have access to quality primary and secondary education. Muslim Aid has been supporting vulnerable children through the provision of quality education and the development of educational facilities for the last 18 years.

Even though, MAA’s capacity to implement Emergency Projects are limited in terms of resources and staff capacity, in 2024 we have successfully responded to an emergency in the worst affected areas following the floods and landslides in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main strategy used for the emergency project was: to identify humanitarian gaps in consultation with all stakeholders, emergency food, hygiene and water distribution, distribution of NFIs for the rescue operations, cleaning and sanitising the areas and providing basic clothing.

### 3. Approach to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

*Describe how is the organization contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and what measurable impact has been made in key areas such as poverty alleviation, education, gender equality, climate action, and partnerships for the goals? This question invites a comprehensive response while aligning with specific SDG priorities. **Please provide your response in no more than 500 words or 1 page.***

#### **Livestock project**

**SDG 1: No Poverty** – By providing 40 high-quality pregnant heifers to socially and economically vulnerable families, the project ensures long-term financial stability and self-sufficiency through livestock farming. **SDG 2: Zero Hunger** – Increased livestock production directly contributes to food security by providing a stable source of milk and dairy products for families and local communities. **SDG 5: Gender Equality** – With 47.5% of beneficiaries being women, the project promotes gender inclusion in agriculture, empowering women to generate income and take leadership roles in farm management. **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** – Beneficiaries have been integrated into the milk purchasing system, improving their income and fostering local economic development. **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production** – Training on farm management, hygiene, and animal health promotes sustainable and responsible agricultural practices, ensuring long-term productivity. **SDG 13: Climate Action** – 40 Farmers were trained on climate adaptation strategies, including sustainable pasture management and resource-efficient farming techniques, helping them build resilience to climate change.

#### **Greenhouse project**

**SDG 1: No Poverty** – By providing 200 beneficiaries with greenhouses and essential equipment, the project enables families to generate income through sustainable agricultural production.

**SDG 2: Zero Hunger** – With access to controlled food production, 200 families now have improved food security, ensuring a stable and nutritious food supply. **SDG 5: Gender Equality** – A significant portion of the beneficiaries includes women, empowering them through training and economic opportunities in agriculture. **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** – By integrating modern agricultural techniques, beneficiaries have increased their household income and strengthened local economies. **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production** – Training on biodegradable materials, circular economy practices, and resource-efficient farming promotes sustainable agricultural production. **SDG 13: Climate Action** – The project enhances resilience to climate change by teaching farmers how to optimize water use, reduce waste, and adapt to changing environmental conditions. **SDG 15: Life on Land** – Sustainable greenhouse farming reduces the pressure on natural ecosystems by promoting efficient land use and minimizing soil degradation.

### **Beekeeping and rural development project**

**SDG 1: No Poverty** – By providing 31 beneficiaries with 17 beehives each with bee colonies as well as the essential equipment for beekeeping, the project enables families to generate income through sustainable honey and bee products production. **SDG 2: Zero Hunger** – Increased honey and bee products production directly contributes to food security for families and local communities. It is expected that this beekeeping practice contributes to the improvement of their household budget and contributes to the improved quality of life of users and households. **SDG 3: Good health and well-being, SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production, SDG 13: Climate action and SDG 15: Life on land** - A total of 6 training courses were held for beekeepers and farmers, attended by 245 beekeepers, farmers and citizens. The training courses focused on climate change and ways for beekeepers to adapt to the changes that have occurred, the added value of honey products on the market (honey in gastronomy), the interaction between agricultural producers and beekeepers in order to preserve the ecosystem, the quality of honey and honey products, and the recognition of natural honey on the market.

In addition, educational workshops for school-age children were held that included a presentation of bee colonies, the importance of bees, and the importance of bee products in terms of health, ecology, climate change action, responsibilities. Honey plants and trees were also planted (lavender, rosemary, linden tree etc.) in the school yard. A total of 188 students and 11 teachers from 3 primary schools attended the educational workshops.

The "BEE Friends" campaign was created and launched in 2024. This activity included the creation of video, photo and text content aimed at highlighting the importance of bees in the ecosystem and promoting the "Beekeeping and Rural Development" project. The "Bee Friend" campaign also included a sub-campaign "Little Bee Friend", which was created specifically for school-age children. This segment of the campaign included guidelines on how the youngest residents of local communities can help protect nature and bees. Agricultural and ecological fairs were held in all local communities where the project was implemented. Muslim Aid Association participated in a total of 4 fairs where the Bee Friends project and campaign were promoted. It is estimated that a total of 31,000 citizens visited these 4 fairs. The fairs as platforms enabled the dissemination of the key messages of this project and the engagement of a larger number of stakeholders around common topics.

**SDG 5: Gender equality** - A significant portion of the beneficiaries includes women, empowering them through training and economic opportunities in beekeeping.

**SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** - During the duration of the project, all beekeepers, through theoretical and practical training, built their own base of knowledge and skills for independent beekeeping practice. It is expected that this beekeeping practice contributes to the improvement of their household budget and quality of life of users and households.

### Seasonal projects

The Muslim Aid Association's seasonal projects, including Ramadan, Qurbani, and Winterisation initiatives, contribute significantly to the achievement of several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through these programs, the organization addresses key areas such as poverty alleviation, gender equality, climate action, and partnerships for the goals.

### Poverty Alleviation (SDG 1: No Poverty):

The Ramadan and Qurbani projects directly contribute to poverty alleviation by providing essential food aid to vulnerable communities during critical periods. During Ramadan, the distribution of food packages ensures that families in need have access to nutritious meals, while the Qurbani initiative helps to meet the dietary needs of communities in hardship. These projects reduce food insecurity, allowing families to focus on other aspects of their livelihoods. The Winterisation project offers extra aid by giving out products to communities with extreme winter conditions, which reduces the burden of necessary winter products on individuals.

### Education (SDG 5: Gender Equality):

The organization prioritizes gender equality by ensuring that aid reaches all members of the community. Women often bear the brunt of poverty, so by providing targeted support, the projects empower women to better care for their families. In some regions, women are also involved in the distribution and management of the aid, allowing them to take on leadership roles and contribute to community development. The projects foster a sense of equality and inclusion, encouraging the active participation of women in humanitarian efforts.

### Climate Action (SDG 13: Climate Action):

The Winterisation projects directly support SDG 13 by helping vulnerable communities prepare for the winter climate. By providing winterized heating materials, the organisation is enabling the communities to gain resilience against extreme climatic conditions. The Qurbani project also promotes sustainability by procuring animals from local farmers, sustaining regional agriculture, and minimizing carbon footprints linked to food distribution.

### Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals):

The Muslim Aid Association collaborates with local stakeholders to maximize the impact of these seasonal projects. By working with local charities, the association ensures that its interventions are well-coordinated and impactful. These partnerships enable the organization to reach more beneficiaries, share resources, and leverage collective expertise in addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. The Muslim Aid Association's seasonal projects make a measurable impact across several SDGs. The holistic approach of these initiatives ensures that vulnerable communities receive immediate assistance while fostering long-term development through gender equality, and climate resilience, ultimately contributing to the broader goals of the United Nations.

### Education CBM Project

The asbestos roof replacement activity at the Ivan Goran Kovacic Primary School will directly contribute to SDG goals 3, 8, and 9. SDG Goal 3 aims for Bosnia and Herzegovina to substantially reduce deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals, air, water, and soil pollution and contamination by 2030. The specific objectives of this activity align with the SDGs concerning good health and well-being (Goal 3) and decent work and economic growth (Goal 8). A positive impact is also anticipated for the SDG related to industry, innovation, and infrastructure (Goal 9).



Support and additional education for teachers of children with disabilities (CWD) in mainstream schools will contribute to achieving SDG Goal 4 (quality education), which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. With this SDG Goal, Bosnia and Herzegovina aims to increase the number of qualified teachers by 2030. However, teachers do not study or receive training to work with CWDs during their education. Therefore, through CBM activities, we will provide additional education and mentoring for teachers and assistants of CWDs .

## Emergency Project

Muslim Aid Association's Emergency Response to Floods and Landslides project contribute to the achievement of several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through this project, the organization addresses key areas such as SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

### SDG 2: Zero Hunger:

Distribution of emergency food packages directly contributes towards zero hunger of people affected by the floods and landslides.

### SDG 5: Gender Equality:

Distribution of women hygiene kits alongside with food and water, distribution of women basic clothing

### SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation:

Distribution of emergency water and hygiene packages directly contributes towards zero hunger of people affected by the floods and landslides.

### SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Good partnership between government officials, Civil Protection Unit, Red Cross, Rescue units, volunteers etc. enabled identification of humanitarian gaps without duplication of efforts, fast response, access to areas of disaster, joint disaster relief response.

## 4. Field Office Overview – Audit of the FO

*This section refers to the audit of the FO during 2024. Please summarise the audit's findings and action plan if any. Confirm is there was an evaluation conducted for the FO?, summarise the evaluation's outcomes and action plan if any? Summarise any lessons learnt and provide justifications. **Please provide your response in no more than 500 words or 1 page.***

In 2024. Financial audit was conducted for the year 2023 as per MAUK schedule. No significant issues or action plans were outlined. The audit indicated good financial management, compliance with international and local accounting standards, transparent and accurate financial statements, with effective internal controls, no evidence of financial mismanagement or unethical practices.

External evaluation of sustainable livelihood projects implemented over the last 10 years has started in 2024. MAA has hired a consultant to do external evaluation for the three Sustainable Livelihood projects: greenhouse vegetables production, cattle farming, beekeeping and rural development. These projects have been conducted with over 80 municipalities across the whole country BiH. The projects have been funded by the following donors: Church of Latter Days Saints, MA-UK HQ, MA Sweden, MA USA and 80 municipalities. The consultant has highlighted that the research has shown a great, positive impact on the lives of all beneficiaries on food security, income generation and well being. "A huge THANK YOU and immense gratitude all beneficiaries have shared and expressed for the support they received from MAA".

This evaluation research will be used to apply for the project to the other donors as well as to strengthen the partnerships and donor base with the existing donors. MAA will use this material for the promotion of our work in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

MA HQ visit to MAA Office – The Head of MA IP Mohammed Iqbal and the Chairman Mustafa Faruqi have visited Bosnia and Herzegovina in June 2024. They took part in the celebration event in Sarajevo that marked 10 years of MAA and LDSC partnership. They also visited our three livelihood projects along with the donor LDSC representatives. In addition, Mohammed Iqbal has visited MAA office in Sarajevo and conducted projects review, gave valuable information on potential new donors and the potential projects expansion.

### Lessons learnt in 2024:

No.	Lessons learnt	Justification
1	Implementation of activities: Teacher training in January 2024 for about 500 teachers from Tuzla Canton	It is necessary to improve the participant's registration system during the implementation of similar activities like teacher training. To prevent oversubscription and to possibly form smaller groups for training. Offer more training sessions and, if possible, at more locations.
2	MAA had an issue with the payment of three municipalities in Republika Srpska, who are either late with payment or do not have money to pay their contribution towards the Greenhouse Project.	As this issue has been repeating with the Municipalities in Republika Srpska (RS) due to the shortage of money influx from their government, MAA has contacted other partners and suppliers to solve this problem in the future, and to learn from their experience. It is decided before signing the project agreement with the municipalities in RS, MAA will ask for bank guarantees or 100% upfront payment from the municipality. If this is not granted we will not execute projects in these municipalities.  Furthermore, the lawyer has been consulted to draft the agreements with the partner municipalities.
3	Greenhouse livelihoods project: MAA had an issue with three municipalities where the greenhouse are installed in June and hence why beneficiaries could not use the greenhouse for the summer crops fully, only partially.	The public calls for beneficiary selection should start as early as possible in the year, suggest February in order to select beneficiaries early and give enough time to the vendor for installing greenhouses on time
4	Frequent change of political parties in power affecting the shift/change of Head Teachers in schools.	The actions we have taken to ensure the project is implemented smoothly are as follows: MAA have signed a memorandum of cooperation with the schools, which details the rights and obligations of both parties. Then, in all schools, we have coordinators who know what are the activities with school. MAA also has a Field Officer who coordinates activities with the schools. The

		change of school directors does not affect the activities carried out because of all the above. However, this requires an additional effort during the project to introduce a new person to the activities that have been agreed to be implemented.
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## Our major events or key achievements in 2024:

No.	Major events or key achievements
1	Muslim Aid Association jointly with our major donor Letter Days Saints Charities (LDSC) marked and celebrated 10 years of our partnership in June 2024. In this event at least 10 key people were present including the Director of Humanitarian Operations from the Church. Many representatives from at least 50 municipalities, government ministries, partner NGOs were also part of the event as well as our project beneficiaries. This event has further strengthened our partnership for the years to come.
2	Signing Framework Agreement with Pedagogical Institute of Education in Canton Tuzla
3	Attending Muslim Aid's Programmes Strategy Seminar in September 2024 in Sri Lanka
4	Achieved contact via MA Sweden with the Bosnian-Swedish influencer Vahid who came to fund raise for the victims of floods and landslides disaster. As a result, Vahid will be coming to BiH in March 2025 during Ramadan to collect materials for fundraising for MAA projects, possibly to help people affected by the disaster i.e. recovery phase.
5	Comprehensive Livelihoods Projects Implementation Across 15 Local Communities Successfully implemented the project across 15 local communities, impacting a total of around 900 direct beneficiaries.

## 5. Emergency Programme



*Distribution of rescue and cleaning NFI items following floods and landslides in Jablanica, 2024-96 BiH EMG.*

### 5.1. Emergency: Projects Overview

*Provide a comprehensive overview of all Emergency projects implemented this year. Include details about the nature of the emergency crisis, its aftermath, and the organization's efforts to prevent similar situations and strengthen preparedness. Highlight the key populations supported, and the critical partnerships involved. **Please provide your response in no more than 500 words or 1 page.***

On 4 October 2024, a severe storm struck Bosnia and Herzegovina, triggering widespread flooding, mudslides, and landslides. It has resulted in the deaths of 27 people. The flooding and landslides had a devastating impact, causing deaths, widespread damage to housing, infrastructure, and essential life services. The impact was terrifying: houses collapsed in flash floods while residents were inside. It was the worst crisis since the Bosnian war.

Jablanica saw some of the worst damage with over 200 households affected and over 500 people displaced. The main project goal was to respond to emergency in the worst affected area of Jablanica by alleviating the suffering of 150 flood-affected IDPs and 220 rescuers and volunteers searching for survivors, as well as clearing / cleaning areas, to have improved access to rescue equipment.

In addition, some efforts were made to identify future needs for livelihood support and economic recovery of beneficiaries during the interview / survey process, but it was too early at the time to report.

Good partnership between municipality government officials, Civil Protection Unit and Red Cross enabled identification of humanitarian gaps without duplication of efforts, fast response, access to areas of disaster, joint disaster relief response.

## 5.2. Emergency: Key Developments

*Describe the Emergency challenges faced in 2024, explaining why change was necessary and its significance. Provide evidence of key developments, emphasizing the organization's role and unique contributions in driving these changes. Additionally, enrich the narrative with pictures and links to videos that vividly showcase the emergency achievements and their real-life effects. **Please provide your response in no more than 500 words or 1 page.***

Muslim Association (MAA) has responded to the emergency immediately by delivering the water funded by MAA partner LDSC Church. Muslim Aid Sweden offered to help and fundraise for the floods response via influencers. Bosnian influencer Wahid living in Sweden came on two occasions to Bosnia to visit the area and to fundraise. MAA team, photographer and Bosnian influencer went to Jablanica, the worst affected area. MAA got permission to access the area by the Civil Protection Unit (CPU) and the Municipality. The MAA team was accompanied by a staff member of CPU to escort them to the affected areas. During the team visit, MAA delivered 1800 litres of water, 50 dry food packs (tinned sardines, tinned vegetables, pates, bread, dry fruits and nuts, small packs of milk, small packs of biscuits, dehydrated soup packs, instant noodles) and sanitary items for the worst affected families. The team got many good quality photographs and videos for fundraising.

In consultation with CPU, Red Cross of Jablanica and Municipality of Jablanica, MAA had continued with the emergency response by delivering the emergency NFIs for IDPs and the rescuers and volunteers searching for survivors, clearing, cleaning and sanitizing the areas.

The following NFIs were distributed that had enabled improvement of IDPs living conditions, reduced health risks and facilitated rescue and cleaning efforts :

- 150 flood affected people in Jablanica had their immediate basic clothing needs met. (underwear, socks and pyjamas)
- 220 rescuers and volunteers searching for survivors have received rescue equipment (raincoats, boots, gloves, wheelbarrows, sanitisers, pickaxes, rubble disposal jute sacks/bags and nylons in rolls)

Please find a link showing photographs of distribution efforts and emergency achievements. <https://youtu.be/YqONSyldSBE>

MAA has ensured that the vendor meets quality standards and humanitarian specification. We have conducted sample testing, physical inspection, checking quantity and quality of NFIs as well as all paperwork where required.

Please note that MAA staff and Swedish influencer took part in cleaning and clearing the areas around the houses, helping affected families. In total, at least 370 people have directly benefitted from the effects of floods and landslides disaster.

## 5.3. Emergency: Challenges

*Outline the barriers encountered in addressing the emergency challenges. Detail the key strategies implemented to overcome these obstacles and provide insight into additional actions required to ensure future progress. **Please provide your response in no more than 500 words or 1 page.***

During the project implementation, the following challenges have been encountered:

1. Difficulties in accessing certain areas or areas were not safe at present because people were displaced or unaccounted - Solution: MAA staff left the NFI items for the rescue teams and volunteers to deliver via CPU / or Red Cross
2. Changing needs required slight project modification - Solution: MAA slightly changed NFI so instead of buying disinfectants hand sanitisers , room disinfectants and general sanitation of target beneficiaries homes were purchased and delivered. This decision was made after several consultations with the partners as well as the target beneficiaries.



General sanitation of beneficiary's homes was priority at the time and disinfectants hand sanitisers was no longer needed.

3. Difficulties in knowing exact gender and beneficiaries' segregation - Solution: MAA had estimated number of beneficiaries / gender etc. in coordination with CPU/municipality.

## 5.4. Emergency: Longer-Term recovery efforts


*Describe how the Emergency Programme contributed to long-term recovery and resilience-building within affected communities. What evidence demonstrates sustained improvements in overall well-being, over time? Please limit your response to 500 words or one page.*

Long-term recovery and resilience-building was not the aim of the emergency response project, only short term response. The delivered items has helped in searching and the rescue of survivors or diseased people under the gravel as well as cleaning / clearing the affected areas. Also, it helped displaced persons and survivors with the basic clothing.

Long-term recovery might be considered in the next phase of the project depending on funding. MAA is working to revitalize the local economy through livelihood programs, supported by MA Sweden.

## 5.5. Emergency: Case study

*Please select one key case study that you believe best highlights and showcases the impact of Muslim Aid's work for inclusion in the Global Report.*

<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<p>Salko and his family are one of them who were affected by the disaster in Donja Jablanica. Salko's house was partially buried and he and his family were lucky to have survived. The area of Donja Jablanica is now considered to be unsafe to live, so Salko and his family had to leave their home temporarily. The family now lives in a temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Also, Salko was one of MAA beneficiaries of the greenhouse and beekeeping projects. The family's income was partially dependent on the sale of vegetables produce and sale of honey. His livelihood was also completely destroyed.</p> <p>As a part of the emergency response, MAA has distributed NFI items for clearing and cleaning the affected areas: raincoats, boots, gloves, wheelbarrows, disinfectants sanitisers, pickaxes for digging.</p> <p>With the donated equipment Muslim Aid has helped Salko and his family in clearing and disinfecting the area around his house in order to make the area safe and potential infection free. MAA team themselves helped with the cleaning along with the volunteers.</p> <p><b>Positive Outcomes</b></p> <p>Even though the area is not deemed to be safe for Salko and his family in Donja Jablanica, Salko was determined to return to his house. This project has helped volunteers, clearing rubble and the area from the flood effects, to be better equipped with the specialised equipment such as: raincoats, boots, gloves, wheelbarrows etc.in order to help with flood-related challenges. This has helped Salko in clearing / cleaning the area around his house.</p> <p><i>In the meantime, MAA has found out that Salko and his family has returned to his house, even though it is still not deemed safe. Salko and his family has also received a Cash assistance under the MAA Winterisation Project as substantial support to meet winter immediate family needs is needed, such wood for heating, warm clothing, heaters etc.</i></p>
<b>Testimony</b>	<p>I would like to thank MAA for the help provided before and after the floods occurred. Thanks to MAA volunteers the area around my house looks much better, and I am hoping to return to my house soon. I am hoping that MAA will help me and my family in restoring my home and livelihoods, especially as we are dependent on agriculture. <i>(In the meantime Salko has returned to his house, as home is home).</i></p>
<b>Photo or video</b>	
	<p><i>Salko, 64 years old PWD, 2024-96 BiH EMG Jablanica, Bosnia and Herzegovina</i></p>

## 6. Seasonal Programme



### 2024-16 BIH SNL Bosnia and Herzegovina Ramadan Food Programme 2024

#### 6.1. Seasonal: Projects Overview

*Describe the seasonal projects implemented this year, detailing the key activities undertaken and the main outputs achieved. Please provide your response in no more than 500 words or 1 page.*

#### **2024-16 BIH SNL Bosnia and Herzegovina Ramadan Food Programme 2024**

The overall aim of the programme was to improve nutrition and food security for vulnerable groups in society during the holy month of Ramadan. Through the provision of food parcels to families, the programme aimed to reduce hunger and assist fasting individuals who are facing economic difficulties. The project exceeded its target of assisting 1,890 individuals, effectively assisting 2,309 beneficiaries. 634 vulnerable families were given food packs. Food packs were painstakingly prepared to cover monthly household needs. Beneficiaries were selected based on well-structured, inclusive, and gender-sensitive criteria. The selection process prioritized vulnerable groups, including women-headed households, families with one or more persons with disabilities (PWDs), households led by older individuals, and those with three or more children. The intervention was implemented in different areas such as Srebrenica, Bratunac, and Zenica, among others. Key stakeholders including women's associations and organizations committed to serving individuals with disabilities contributed meaningfully to the identification of beneficiaries as well as the successful delivery.

#### **2024-47 BIH SNL Bosnia Qurbani Project 2024**

Bosnia Qurbani Project aimed at scaling up access to nutritious meat among needy families during the Eid-ul-Adha festivities. The project managed to serve 3879 individuals, far surpassing the goal of 2524. Clean meat from 81 sheep and 3 cows was given to 602 families. The project was implemented in the following locations: Srebrenica, Breza, Vareš, Bratunac, Zvornik, Vlasenica, Milići, Kalesija, Doboј Istok, Doboј, Gračanica, Tuzla and Velika Kladuša. The criteria for

beneficiary selection required individuals to fall into one of the following categories: recipients of public kitchen services, low-income families, single parents, the elderly, people with disabilities, orphan families, or others facing significant hardships.

Distribution was conducted in adherence to Islamic guidelines, with the meat properly prepared and dispatched to the beneficiaries. Stakeholders, including social work services, women's organizations, and public kitchens, provided critical assistance in the selection and distribution processes. This partnership enabled the project to meet its goals and properly respond to the nutritional requirements of vulnerable families during the holiday season.

## 2024-87 BIH SNL Bosnia and Herzegovina Winter Programme 2024

The Winter Programme sought to provide emergency cash assistance to persons displaced due to recent floods in the Jablanica and Konjic municipalities. The project achieved its objective by reaching 354 people. Cash support was provided to 131 poor families. The cash relief facilitated families to purchase some of the necessary winter-related commodities, such as firewood for domestic heating (36%), winter garments (20%), foodstuffs (19%), and house repair materials (10%), among other home items. The prompt action improved the thermal comfort and living conditions of the displaced individuals during the cold winter months. The project beneficiaries were all displaced persons and included children and minors, elderly individuals, women, and people with disabilities.

The 2024 seasonal activities were implemented and, in all but one case, exceeded their targets, totalling a cumulative number of 6,542 people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Local associations and organizations made targeting and implementation accurate and enabled relevant and significant support to vulnerable populations. The projects illustrate the value of collaboration in addressing food security and emergency needs.

## 6.2. Seasonal: Key Developments

*Describe the Seasonal challenges faced in 2024, explaining why change was necessary and its significance. Provide evidence of key developments, emphasizing the organization's role and unique contributions in driving these changes. Additionally, enrich the narrative with pictures and links to videos that vividly showcase the seasonal achievements and their real-life effects. Please provide your response in no more than 300 words.*

In 2024, seasonal challenges in Bosnia and Herzegovina require immediate action to improve the food security of vulnerable communities during the critical periods of Ramadan, Eid-ul-Adha, and winter. Economic hardship and recent floods in Jablanica and Konjic have increased household vulnerability. The dire need for immediate interventions showed up to prevent deficiencies in food security and the impact of extreme weather conditions.

Key developments included successfully implementing the Ramadan Food Programme, which exceeded its target by assisting 2309 individuals, and the Qurbani Project, which provided hygienic meat to 3879 beneficiaries. The Winter Programme, on the other hand, has delivered emergency cash assistance to 354 displaced individuals to help purchase the most urgent winter supplies. These changes have been paramount in addressing the immediate needs of affected populations while restoring dignity and hope in difficult situations.

This has been instrumental, as it drew upon its deep penetration at the grassroots level and linkages with women's associations, public kitchens, and social work services to effectively target the exact persons in need of such resource allocations. Furthermore, the humanitarian best practices which have formed the backbone of the organization included adherence to the guidelines such as those of the food security cluster to the Islamic-oriented ones. This approach allowed MAA to address diverse community needs while maintaining cultural and religious sensitivity. For instance, MAA ensured that food distributions during seasonal programs meet both nutritional standards and

Islamic dietary requirements (Halal). Additionally, its emphasis on dignity and inclusiveness has strengthened its outreach efforts, particularly during Ramadan food distribution and Qurbani project, which have positively impacted food security and social solidarity in target communities.

These were further supplemented through visual storytelling: Pictures of smiling children holding food packs, beneficiaries thanking for Qurbani meat and winter aids in videos-the life-changing impact of the organisation's seasonal programmes captured poignantly in multi-media.

Video Link: [Ramadan Food Programme Impact](#)

Video Link: [Qurbani Distribution Highlights](#)


Coupled with good stakeholder engagement, timely interventions have helped the organization to respond to seasonal challenges while building resilience and solidarities in vulnerable communities.

## 6.3. Seasonal: Case study

*Please select one key case study that you believe best highlights and showcases the impact of Muslim Aid's work for inclusion in the Global Report.*


<b>Winter</b>	<p>Ajla is a mother from the village of Mirke in Jablanica Municipality. This 27-year-old woman lives together with her husband and three children. The family survived on the minimum wage that her husband earned by doing seasonal part-time jobs. On 4 October 2024, one of the worst storms hit Bosnia and Herzegovina; heavy rains provoked flooding, mudflows, and landslides that killed 27 people and destroyed everything in its way.</p> <p>The worst destructions were experienced in the village of Mirke, where Ajla is a resident, with over 200 households affected and more than 500 people displaced. Ajla's house was completely destroyed, and her family no longer had a place to call their own. Ajla and her family were forced to flee forever and officially became the internally displaced persons, as the area had been deemed unfit for human use. Everything they had was destroyed, including their homes and livelihoods, and they now stay in a borrowed house whose owner is living abroad.</p> <p><b>Response</b> During winter, their needs became acute, particularly related to heating and nutrition. The MAA, based on consultations conducted with the CPU Jablanica and with local municipal personnel, determined cash assistance to be the most effective form of support for the affected families.</p> <p>In November and December, MAA distributed cash in person or via bank transfers to displaced families. The amount of BAM 200 per person, including children, was given directly to parents or guardians. For Ajla, this meant the family of five was given a total of BAM 1,000, which she used to buy firewood for heating and basic food supplies.</p> <p><b>Outcomes</b> The cash assistance provided Ajla's family with critical relief, addressing their urgent needs for warmth and sustenance during the winter. While their long-term future remains uncertain due to the loss of their home, the aid alleviated some of</p>
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	their financial burdens, giving them a sense of security and stability in the aftermath of the disaster. The intervention showed how timely and targeted support can restore dignity and hope to families like Ajla's during crises.
<b>Testimony</b>	
<b>Photo or video</b>	
	<i>Ajla Japalak, 27, 2024-87 BIH SNL Bosnia and Herzegovina Winter Programme 2024, Jablanica</i>


*Please select one key case study that you believe best highlights and showcases the impact of Muslim Aid's work for inclusion in the Global Report.*

<b>Ramadan</b>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <p>Hajrulah resides in Biljača, a village located near Bratunac, along with his wife and two daughters. They are supported by agriculture and cattle breeding, whose income is not stable. Hajrulah occasionally contributes to this income by performing labour activities in the construction industry daily. Their older daughter, who is a sophomore in high school, wants to become a hairdresser, whereas their younger daughter attends primary school. In spite of their financial hardships, the family values education, which underscores their hopes for a brighter future. Limited rural employment opportunities and unpredictable income, however, provide constant money challenges, finding it hard to meet every-day expenditures as well as financing their daughters' schooling.</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>In response to these issues, Muslim Aid UK, USA, and Sweden collaborated to initiate the Ramadan Food Programme, providing food parcels to needy families in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Hajrulah's family was one of the 634 food packs distributed. Every parcel was specifically chosen based on food security criteria to feed a family for a month, thereby making sure that families like his could adequately cater to their nutritional requirements during Ramadan.</p> <p>This intervention went beyond just food security; it brought dignity and smiles to families throughout the holy month. Secondly, the project ensured inclusivity as it</p>
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	<p>reached out to people with disabilities, hence encouraging empathy and cohesion in society.</p> <p><b>Positive Outcomes</b> The Ramadan food package significantly improved the welfare of Hajrulah's family. By removing immediate financial burdens, they were able to focus on other important priorities, such as education. The gift ensured that they could celebrate Ramadan without fear of hunger, thus reflecting the values of generosity and dignity.</p> <p>This integrated strategy tackled not only economic difficulties but also the cultural and emotional value of Ramadan, thereby creating resilience among vulnerable families and a culture of empathy throughout the community.</p>
<b>Testimony</b>	<p>"A month ago, our worries about providing for our family during Ramadan felt overwhelming. Now, thanks to the generous support of Muslim Aid, we can celebrate this holy month with peace in our hearts and food on our table. Their kindness has shown us that even in our darkest moments, there are people who care and are willing to help."</p>
<b>Photo or video</b>	
	<p><i>Hajrulah Gračanlić, 48, 2024-16 Bosnia and Herzegovina Ramadan Food Programme 2024, Bratunac</i></p>

Please select one key case study that you believe best highlights and showcases the impact of Muslim Aid's work for inclusion in the Global Report.

<b>Qurbani</b>	<p><b>Context</b> Melisa, a 38-year-old resident of Breza, Bosnia and Herzegovina, lives with her spouse. Both are unemployed, and the household relies on biannual social service assistance amounting to 200 BAM. Melisa is also undergoing cancer treatment, adding to the family's financial and emotional burdens. Her husband works on a per diem basis, but the income is inconsistent, leaving the family unable to meet their basic needs reliably throughout the year.</p> <p><b>Response</b></p>
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	<p>As part of the Qurbani Project, the Muslim Aid Association (MAA) aimed to provide meat to vulnerable families who could not afford it or perform the sacrifice themselves during Eid-al-Adha. Through this initiative, Melisa's family received 3 kilograms of Qurbani meat, enough to prepare nutritious meals for the entire festival period and beyond. This gesture brought immense joy and relief, allowing them to celebrate the festival with dignity and fulfillment.</p> <p><b>Positive Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Qurbani donation had a significant impact on Melisa's family. The provision of fresh, hygienic meat enabled them to celebrate Eid-al-Adha without worrying about food. Melisa prepared a variety of delicious meals, ensuring her family enjoyed the festive period fully. This support not only alleviated their immediate financial strain but also fostered a sense of inclusion and happiness during an important cultural and religious occasion.</p> <p>This intervention underscored the power of compassion and collective efforts, ensuring that families like Melisa's could experience the joy and meaning of Eid-al-Adha despite their hardships.</p>
<b>Testimony</b>	<p>"I am deeply grateful for the Qurbani meat donation. It has brought joy and relief to my family during this special time. Thank you for your generosity and kindness."</p>
<b>Photo or video</b>	
	<p><i>Melisa Turbo, F, 38, 2024-47 SNL BIH QUR Qurbani Programme, Breza</i></p>



## 7. Education Programme



2023-58 BIH EDC CBM - Children's playground in front of the "Memici" elementary school in Memici

### 7.1. Education: Projects Overview

*Provide a comprehensive overview of all Education projects implemented this year. Include details about the nature of the education crisis, its aftermath, and the organization's efforts to prevent similar situations and strengthen preparedness. Highlight the key populations supported, and the critical partnerships involved. Please provide your response in no more than 500 words or 1 page.*

The challenge addressed by the Project 2023-58 BIH EDC in CBM Project phase IV is focused on recommendations that were partially or not fulfilled at all in the previous phase of the project.

1. Such as: Need to provide education for special education teachers and assistants for CWDs in mainstream schools
2. Need to provide monitoring, and continuous advisory and educational support by experts to special education teachers for CWDs in mainstream schools
3. Need to provide and equip adequate cabinets for special education teachers in mainstream schools .
4. Need tTo create guidelines for the work of teaching assistants for CWDs in in mainstream schools
5. Need to provide continuous support and monitoring of the work of teaching assistants for CWDs in mainstream schools.
6. Need to create professional networks and provide a meeting place in the Pedagogical Institute, which is responsible for coordinating and improving the work of teachers in the Tuzla Canton.

These recommendations also include the conclusions of the internal evaluation of the CBM project, carried out during the third phase, and the recommendations and findings of the focus groups.

In phase IV of the CBM Project, a partnership with the Ministry of Education of Tuzla Canton, Pedagogical Institute and the Tuzla Institute (Institute for PWDs), will contribute to a long-term positive change in the improvement of the educational process. Through our activities, our goal is to gradually influence positive changes and to improve the education system.

The project aims to:

- Create mechanisms for counselling and monitoring in primary schools regarding PWD inclusion.

- Create mechanisms to support learning for teachers, parents, and students in schools.
- Strengthen professional capacities in educational institutions.
- Develop and support Peer to peer workshop.
- Develop a support network for inclusive education.
- Educate, inform, and strengthen the families of children/students with and without disabilities

## 7.2. Education: Key Developments

*Describe the Education challenges faced in 2024, explaining why change was necessary and its significance. Provide evidence of key achievements, emphasizing the organization's role and unique contributions in driving these changes. Additionally, enrich the narrative with pictures and links to videos that vividly showcase the education achievements and their real-life effects. Please provide your response in no more than 500 words or 1 page.*

This project is providing equal learning opportunities for all children. MAA, in partnership with Institute Tuzla, the Ministry of Education and Pedagogical Institute reduce the stigma towards CWD and children from marginalised groups in the community. The project emphasises that regardless of disability, social status, or origin, all children are equal and have the right to the same opportunities. By encouraging the inclusion of CWD, Roma children and children from marginalised groups, adults, and peers around them will become more empathetic. Enabling high education conditions in safe, well-equipped, health-risk-free schools by removing toxic asbestos materials that pose a serious health risk to children and adults. The project took place in the Tuzla Canton, in seven schools (six Primary Schools and one Special School). The project emphasised raising awareness in society about the position of children with disabilities (CWDs) and, more generally, enhancing conditions in schools. However, we can assert as a tangible outcome of the project is that, thanks to the activities throughout all phases of the CBM project, it contributed to the integration of institutional education for teaching assistants into the professional training system. For the first time, the Ministry of Education accepted and decided to finance an expert to work with teachers and teaching assistants of CWDs at the Pedagogical Institute. This expert will serve as a mentor and consultant to teachers and teaching assistants, assisting with the inclusion of children in mainstream education.

### **MAA providing support for:**

**CWD in regular schools** (through various activities that encouraged their participation, such as workshops)

#### **Support and education for CWD teachers in mainstream schools.**

Continuous support for teachers is needed, based on the mentoring support of experts for CWDs, and it can give advice and recommendations from practice. This initiative will contribute to SDG Goal 4, which is BiH's aim to increase the number of qualified teachers by 2030.

#### **Education, support, mentoring and monitoring of CWDs teaching assistants.**

Like teachers, CWDs teaching assistants are in a similar situation as teachers. Project provided education, support, and mentoring.

#### **Inclusion of children from families who grew up in refugee camps and belong to the group of socially and educationally neglected children.**

Children from this settlement attend Partner School Miladije. Children grow up in a cycle of poverty, family violence, and lack of education. The project supports this population through workshops for parents and children and equipping classrooms. MAA works closely with the Parents' Council to provide support.



## Infrastructure

The use of asbestos for construction is widely spread in Tuzla Canton. Asbestos harms the health of children, teachers, and the community. Replacing an asbestos roof is expensive and requires protective equipment for workers, along with special disposal and destruction at a specialised waste recycling company. Replacing the asbestos roof in the Ivan Goran Kovacic primary school significantly protects the health of 686 students and 71 employees, as well as the broader community of the city of Gradacac, which includes 12,000 people. Please see the attached [VIDEO](#).

## Furnishing of cabinets for subject cabinets (physics, mathematics, biology...) and classrooms for special education teacher.

The project provided specialised classroom equipment for physics, biology, etc, adequate classrooms for special education teachers, and essential equipment for their work.

## 7.3. Education: Challenges

*Outline the barriers encountered in addressing the educational challenges. Detail the key strategies implemented to overcome these obstacles and provide insight into additional actions required to ensure future progress. Please provide your response in no more than 500 words or 1 page.*

Several challenges were detected in Tuzla Canton education system:

### Support for children with disabilities in regular schools.

The inclusion of children with disabilities (CWDs) in mainstream schools is regulated by law. However, aside from the legal framework, the resources and adaptability of schools for individuals with various types of difficulties do not meet these legal standards. <sup>1</sup> Laws mandate the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools. However, many schools lack the resources and accommodations to properly support these students, falling short of legal standards

### Support and education for CWD teachers in mainstream schools.

According to [SDG Goal 4 BiH](#) aims to increase the number of qualified teachers by 2030. During their education, teachers do not study and are not trained to work with children with disabilities. Most of them meet CWDs for the first time in the classroom and face the challenges of balancing work with children with and without disabilities at the same time. Most of the teachers are completely unprepared and scared of this challenge. Support is insufficient, education is sporadic and inadequate.

### Education, support, mentoring and monitoring of CWDs teaching assistants.

Like teachers, CWDs teaching assistants are in a similar situation as teachers. Most of them are employed in that place because they are unemployed or are redundant teachers in their schools. They do not undergo previous training and have no insight into the health status or characteristics of the child assigned to them.

### Inclusion of Roma and street children

Roma children are accepted in the communities they come from. The challenge is that these families are poor, they do not cherish the importance of education and encouraging children to study. Many of them encourage their children to beg on the street as a form of income for the whole family.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://aposo.gov.ba/sadrzaj/uploads/Okvirni-zakon-o-osnovnom-i-srednjem-obrazovanju-u-Bosni-i-Hercegovini.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [Roma children](#)

## **Inclusion of children from families who grew up in refugee camps and belong to the group of socially and educationally neglected children.**

Entire generations have grown up in refugee settlements, separated from urban areas. Generations of young people have stopped their education, have not returned to their pre-war places of residence, to the villages located in the Republika Srpska. Their families were killed, or survived genocide, rape, etc. They carry transgenerational trauma that they pass on to their children<sup>3</sup>.

### **Infrastructure**

In the last century, the use of asbestos in construction was widespread in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Asbestos boards were used as insulation of houses and water pipes, for the roofs, etc. It has been proven that inhalation of small particles of asbestos causes severe illnesses. According to the internal research<sup>4</sup> of the Ministry of Education in Tuzla Canton, 55 out of 89 primary schools are covered with asbestos roofs.

### **Furnishing of cabinets for subject cabinets (physics, mathematics, biology...) and classrooms for special education teacher.**

All stakeholders generally detected a lack of classroom equipment for conducting experiments and explaining teaching units practically. They also noted inadequate classrooms for special education teachers and the lack of essential equipment for their work.

## 7.4. Education: Longer-Term recovery efforts

*Describe how the Education Programme contributed to long-term recovery and resilience-building within affected communities. What evidence demonstrates sustained improvements in overall well-being, over time? Please limit your response to 500 words or one page.*

The project aims to directly improve the schooling conditions for about 4,021 children in 7 schools and indirectly for more children in 25 schools in Tuzla Canton. It will provide training for teachers to enhance their competency skills, improve the infrastructural conditions by renovating the school's facilities, equip schools with didactic materials, and protect children and adults from dangerous substances by removing and replacing the asbestos roof at Ivan Goran Kovacic Primary School.

The project initiated long-term changes by first detecting in the field the current situation in primary schools in Tuzla Canton regarding infrastructure, equipment, capacity, and the needs of students, emphasising the needs and involvement of CWDs. In cooperation with relevant institutions such as the Tuzla Institute and the Pedagogical Institute, we are working on strengthening the capacities of primary schools. We simultaneously built the capacities of the Tuzla Institute and the Pedagogical Institute, reinforcing the support system for special education teachers and teaching assistants of CWDs and, ultimately, for all children and teachers. Thanks first to the infrastructure works and then to the activities of equipping students, parents, teachers, and assistants with didactic equipment and education, we can say that the situation in education in Tuzla Canton is much different and better today than before the project. All the activities and advocacy efforts that were carried out gradually put pressure on the Ministry of Education of Tuzla Canton and led to the

<sup>3</sup> Collective centres and social housing in Bosnia and Herzegovina

<sup>4</sup>

[https://muslimaid766.sharepoint.com/:w:/t/InstitutionalFundingUK/Eb3kv2lqbCdOqKHtr5fbizQBx8re0fBR\\_Ti4wsXm9PVJ9g?e=GStU5V](https://muslimaid766.sharepoint.com/:w:/t/InstitutionalFundingUK/Eb3kv2lqbCdOqKHtr5fbizQBx8re0fBR_Ti4wsXm9PVJ9g?e=GStU5V)

inclusion of education for special education teachers and assistants as an integral part of mandatory professional education (which was not the case before). Also, permanent employees at the Ministry of Education and the Pedagogical Institute are experts in working with CWD. This will play a key role in including CWD in regular schools, which was not the case before. It is a direct outcome of the project.

Based on the results of the focus groups and the internal evaluation conducted with students, teachers, parents, and stakeholders, the project has a great impact on the area of Tuzla Canton where it is being implemented. It will lead to long-term changes that will improve education for all children. The link to reports of workshops for [parents](#) and [children](#).

## 7.5. Education: Case study

*Please select one key case study that you believe best highlights and showcases the impact of Muslim Aid's work for inclusion in the Global Report.*

### EDUCATION

#### 1. Introduction

Karic Selmir is a professor of mathematics and the headteacher of "Ivan Goran Kovacic" Primary School. Selmir is married and has two children. He had cancer surgery a few years ago, and it affected his motor skills.

Ivan Goran Kovacic is a primary school in Gradac. One of school's most significant problems was the roof of the central school, which was covered with asbestos sheets.

#### 2. Context


One of our school's most significant problems was the asbestos roof of the central school. During the reconstruction of the school building, the roof structure was covered with asbestos-based materials and panels. The material turned out to be highly carcinogenic. Asbestos could significantly negatively impact the health of 686 students, their parents, and 71 school employees.

#### 3. Challenge or problem.

One of our school's most significant problems was the roof of the central school, which was covered with asbestos sheets. This significantly negatively impacted the health of 686 students and 71 employees. According to the internal research of the Ministry of Education in Tuzla Canton, 55 out of 89 primary schools are covered with asbestos roofs. This is a danger to the health of children, teachers, and the community where the schools are located. Replacing an asbestos roof is expensive, and requires protective equipment for workers, special disposal, and destruction in a specialized waste recycling company. The problem was detected by the institution; however, the funds are insufficient to be able to solve the problem soon.

#### 4. Solution and Impact

The school signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Muslim Aid Association, based on which we have resolved the problems mentioned above. The school's roof has been completely replaced with a sheet metal roof, and insulation has been installed from the hall to the school, preventing leaks in that part of the building. Also, through the memorandum of cooperation, we acquired essential teaching aids and aids for the cabinets in our school. After the activity ended, we held a series of parent and class community meetings to ask for feedback on the satisfaction of

	<p>our students, parents, and employees. The feedback is genuinely positive; the happiness and satisfaction of students, their parents, and our school employees show that we have solved a long-standing problem at our school. As a sign of gratitude, an event was organized in honour of the Muslim Aid Association.</p> <p>By completing this project, we have significantly achieved the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Achieving a higher level of safety for students and employees (eliminating the harmful effects of asbestos on people and the environment).</li> <li>2. Adequate conditions for teaching,</li> <li>3. Adequate conditions when using school premises,</li> <li>4. Achieving a higher level of energy efficiency</li> </ol>
<b>Testimony</b>	<p><i>For many years, we have been unsuccessful in finding the funds to replace the school's roof. We are incredibly grateful to Muslim Aid for helping us do so.</i></p>
<b>Photo or video</b>	
	<p><i>Selmir Karic, 14.03.1982, male</i>  <i>2024-64 BIH EDC CBM, Gradacac</i></p>



## 8. Livelihoods Programme



*Livelihood projects: greenhouse production (10 local communities- 200 beneficiaries), beekeeping (3 local communities-650 beneficiaries) and livestock (2 local communities-40 beneficiaries).*

### 8.1. Livelihoods: Projects Overview

*Provide a comprehensive overview of all Livelihoods projects implemented this year. Include details about the nature of the livelihoods crisis, its aftermath, and the organization's efforts to prevent similar situations and strengthen preparedness. Highlight the key populations supported, and the critical partnerships involved. Please provide your response in no more than 500 words or 1 page.*

During 2024, the Muslim Aid Association implemented three livelihood projects: Greenhouse Production Project, Livestock Project and Beekeeping Project. The projects were implemented in 15 local communities (municipalities) in cooperation with 16 stakeholders (donors). 890 project beneficiaries (about 3,115 family members) participated in the projects. Sustainable development projects included partnership cooperation with local municipalities/cities, beekeeping and agricultural associations, schools and scientific institutions.

The Greenhouse production project was implemented in 10 local communities and offered 200 households resources to start vegetable production in a protected area. The goal of the project was to provide food on the table for the socially vulnerable and economically dependent population with the aim of ensuring food security and strengthening families. Strengthening households has an impact on strengthening the local community. A large majority (82.00%) of survey respondents reported that the assistance significantly improved food availability in their households, and another 16.00% reported a moderate improvement. Only a negligible percentage (2.00%) experienced no change or worsening conditions. The high effect of this project in improving food security for beneficiaries is due its direct outcome of fresh produce on household consumption and potential surplus sales. Greenhouse vegetable production has the most substantial positive impact



out of three livelihood projects, likely due to its direct contribution to food security and income generation. The most significant positive impact, with 58.40% reporting "significantly improved" quality of life and 38.00% indicating "somewhat improved." For greenhouse vegetable production project, 86.00% of respondents reported generating either "a lot" (27.20%) or "some" (58.80%) extra income, while only 13.60% indicated no additional income and just 0.40% experienced a decrease. Along with the donation of the greenhouse, education was organized focused on sustainable cultivation in protected areas, with an emphasis on the optimal use of resources, the application of ecological practices and increasing the yield of cultivation. Greenhouses have become the basis for generating income, reducing household expenses and creating self-sustaining business models.

The beekeeping project connected all interested parties with the goal of comprehensive development of this sector. The project offered resources for independent beekeeping for 31 families, which included beehives with bees and equipment. In addition, practical education is provided every month with the aim of raising the level of knowledge and skills that lead to independence in this sector. Associations of beekeepers took the first step towards self-sustainability and independence from low beekeeping fees, by acquiring processing equipment.

Education and workshops for citizens, beekeepers, agricultural producers connected 180 interested parties in order to develop the beekeeping sector. These workshops were an opportunity to share experiences, spread best practice and encourage joint action. In addition, the project included an intensive campaign to raise awareness about the importance of bees, realized through the production of informative video and photo material, the distribution of leaflets and the organization of fairs that gathered the general public and experts from the beekeeping sector. Special attention is paid to working with children and young people, through interactive educational activities in schools. The children learned about the role of bees in nature, the importance of their protection and the ways in which they can contribute to the preservation of the habitat. The project brought together 650 stakeholders in three local communities.

The livestock project was implemented in two local communities and offered one heifer for 40 family farms. By allocating pregnant heifers, it is ensured that the quality of their lives is improved and a sustainable future is ensured for rural families. This initiative makes it possible to reduce market dependence through own production of milk and milk products, which directly contributes to food security and better nutrition of households. At the same time, an opportunity is created for the development of small farms that can become the basis for long-term economic stability. The ultimate goal is to create economically and socially empowered families who will be able to build a better and safer future for themselves and the next generations.

## 8.2. Livelihoods: Key Developments

*Describe the Livelihoods challenges faced in 2024, explaining why change was necessary and its significance. Provide evidence of key developments, emphasizing the organization's role and unique contributions in driving these changes. Additionally, enrich the narrative with pictures and links to videos that vividly showcase the livelihoods achievements and their real-life effects. **Please provide your response in no more than 500 words or 1 page.***

Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the poorest countries in Europe. This is evidenced by the following data. More than 50% of the population is unemployed, and agriculture accounts for 10% of the value of GDP, with a share of 21% in the total employment of the population. (*Agency for statistic analysis BiH, 2022*) This ranks Bosnia and Herzegovina as one of the poorest countries in Europe, which is among the 5-10% of countries in Europe (together with Kosovo, Albania and Moldova) in terms of wages. (*Agency for statistic BiH, 2023, World Bank-BiH, 2022*). A total of

20% of the population in BiH lives below the relative poverty line, while over 15% of the population is in absolute poverty (UNDP, 2021). Taking into account the above data, but also the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina is rich in natural resources for sustainable agriculture, the Muslim Aid Association focused its activities in this country on the implementation of sustainable agricultural projects in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The beekeeping project had a comprehensive goal - to connect all interested parties in the beekeeping sector with the aim of empowering individuals and the entire sector. Through this project, 31 families were empowered through the possibility of independently engaging in beekeeping as a tool for income generation. After the implementation of the project, the beneficiaries of the project have a total of 338 beehives in their possession. This is an increase in the number of hives in Cornish by 1852.94%. Five project beneficiaries are now engaged in beekeeping as one of their main occupations in addition to agricultural production. These beneficiaries recorded a significant increase in their household budget. The promotional campaign for bee protection has generated interaction from 838,843 people who viewed it through various communication channels. In three main schools 181 students and 11 teachers learned about the importance of bees in nature (increased level of knowledge in this area). Education from different areas connected 245 stakeholders who upgraded their knowledge and information with the aim of cohesive action in the local community and empowering their families. Through the allocation of processing machines, 5 beekeeper associations were established on the path to their self-sustainability and generation of joint income. Over 300 beekeepers will be able to use these resources. The donated equipment was used by 144 beekeepers in the previous year and they saved a total of about 10,000 BAM (compared to the prices of resources on the market).

The animal husbandry project strengthened small family farms in two municipalities through the donation of pregnant heifers. In addition, the number of young cows in one municipality increased by 11% in total. 8 beneficiaries of the project were introduced to the milk purchase system by the dairy. In this way, they can realize an additional source of income. Sixty-three (63%) percent of beneficiaries who received a pregnant heifer in the previous year recorded a significant increase in their household budget. Of these, 43% of beneficiaries now own 2 cows (after calving they will have three). These beneficiaries record a significant increase in food independence. A total of 23% of project beneficiaries are economically independent (significantly increased household budget) because these beneficiaries now own 3 cows and meet the requirement to purchase milk. Other beneficiaries of the project use the obtained resources for the needs of their families, which increased the level of food security for an additional 37% of beneficiaries. By awarding pregnant heifers, the project beneficiaries can breed cows for a longer period of time, because the cows are young and their lifetime (period of production) is about 10 years (they have their full milk and production potential after 5-6 years).

## 8.3. Livelihoods: Challenges

*Outline the barriers encountered in addressing the livelihoods challenges. Detail the key strategies implemented to overcome these obstacles and provide insight into additional actions required to ensure future progress. Please provide your response in no more than 500 words or 1 page.*

Muslim Aid Association implements Sustainable Livelihood projects that are highly susceptible to climate change. As a result of the erosive floods on October 3rd in Jablanica, many villages were destroyed, some even completely disappeared, and about 80% of the town was flooded. The reduction of agricultural production was recorded in the following cases: loss of 70 bee colonies, 8 goats, 20 sheep, 300 chickens, 10 greenhouses, 8 barns, 11 chicken coops (data from the damage assessment commission). The room where the electrical plant is located, which supplies electricity to the donated machines for beekeepers, was heated and the installations are unique. Fortunately, the donated machines were not submerged. Muslim Aid held a meeting with all stakeholders

(Municipality of Jablanica, Association of Farmers, Association of Beekeepers). Due to the good cooperation and partnership relations on the Beekeeping and Rural Development project, the Municipality of Jablanica will repair the damage and repair the installations necessary for the operation of the donated machines in the coming period. Also, many activities on the project were cancelled, such as the education of children, the education of the population and the holding of the agricultural fair. Muslim Aid Association implemented these activities subsequently and according to the dynamics of project maintenance

Acquiring pregnant heifers is always a risk(, as they are live animals that are subject to change(calf loss (abortion), occurrence of infectious diseases, physical injury, injury during transport, death). During the duration of the project, it happened that one farmer sold 3 pregnant heifers immediately before the delivery of the selected pregnant heifers. Muslim Aid Association previously examined and selected a large number of heifers. In this situation, heifers were purchased from the reserve list of heifers. Muslim Aid Association, due to the small supply and the reduction of the livestock fund, will in the coming period buy heifers from farms in Austria/Germany in order to maintain the quality of the donated resources according to the beneficiaries of the project.

Due to floods and snow, several greenhouses were demolished. In Jablanica (flooded area), 2 greenhouses that were previously donated were destroyed. In Dobož, 5 greenhouses were destroyed (due to snow), donated in the spring of 2024. Donated greenhouses are not insured against natural disasters, so in this case the greenhouse was not repaired. In the coming period, Muslim Aid Association will consider the possibilities of securing donated greenhouses and other equipment in accordance with the project budget.

#### 8.4. Livelihoods: Longer-Term recovery efforts

*Describe how the Livelihoods Programme contributed to long-term recovery and resilience-building within affected communities. What evidence demonstrates sustained improvements in overall well-being, over time? Please limit your response to 500 words or one page.*

Sustainable Livelihood projects implemented by Muslim Aid Association contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level. The projects aim to contribute to the achievement of the goals of poverty reduction (SDG 1), zero hunger (SDG 2), education for all (SDG 4), responsible production and consumption (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13) and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

Although the projects start with interventions in the form of donations (bees, cows, greenhouses), in the long term they enable sustainable development, empower families, preserve the environment and increase the resilience of social communities. By donating resources such as cows, bees and greenhouses, communities are provided with the foundation for creating economic opportunities. These donations enable families to become producers, not just consumers, thereby reducing their dependence on the market and opening up space for economic progress. These resources become the basis for the creation of small, self-sustaining farms that generate stable incomes, reduce poverty and ensure food security.

Educations that accompany donations play a key role in the long-term success of projects. By imparting knowledge about sustainable breeding practices, bee protection and the importance of the ecosystem, a responsible attitude towards nature and resources is encouraged. Education not only enables beneficiaries to better manage donated resources, but also empowers them to make informed decisions that contribute to their sustainability. Workshops with children additionally contribute to the formation of environmental awareness from an early age, ensuring that future generations are responsible for nature and ready to continue with environmental conservation practices.

By spreading awareness about the importance of bees and nature through campaigns, workshops and promotions, it contributes to a wider social impact. People are becoming aware of their connection with nature and the importance of preserving biodiversity for the future of the planet. Such projects encourage joint work, strengthen solidarity and connection within the community, creating a network of support that has the power to transform the local economy and social relations. The combination of economic empowerment, education and raising awareness of environmental issues creates the foundations for lasting change.

## 8.5. Livelihoods: Case study

*Please select one key case study that you believe best highlights and showcases the impact of Muslim Aid's work for inclusion in the Global Report.*

### Livelihoods

#### Problem:

Emir Muratović is one of the youngest beneficiary who have been socio-economically empowered through the beekeeping project in Zenica. The Muratović family is engaged in agriculture and this is the only source of income. This hardworking family has one greenhouse and about 150 egg-laying hens. Although they earn income from agriculture, this activity is not enough in this time of inflation for this family to have a decent life. An additional aggravating circumstance for this young person is a mental illness, which he was diagnosed with a few years ago. Due to mental problems, Emir left his studies and withdrew into himself. He says that he used to dream of having bees, but he could not make that dream come true.

#### Response:

Emir says that he saw the public call for bee colonies on a local web portal last year. Since the amount of co-financing was very favorable, he did not hesitate. He received permission from his parents and applied for the public call. During the selection process of the beneficiaries, the selection committee saw Emir's enormous desire to become a beekeeper.


After the selection process, Emir received bee colonies and all additional equipment (a beehive, a bucket, a wax bath). In addition to that, he received something even more valuable, which is knowledge. Since he knew nothing about bees, Emir made incredible progress over the course of two years. During 2023, Emir had practical training every month but also read additional books about bees.

In the second year of the project, Emir went to a lecture at the local beekeepers' association every Wednesday. In addition, he was donated 3 more bee colonies by the beekeepers' association. Emir was a participant in the 1st show about agriculture, where he told about his experience on this project. Emir was also one of the participants of the ZEPS 2024 fair, one of the largest fairs in Southeast Europe.

#### Outcomes:

Emir's performance at the end of this project can be measured through several parameters. One of the main parameters is his knowledge of bees. Emir is now a real beekeeper who can talk to other much more experienced beekeepers about



	<p>bees and nature. He is an active participant in beekeeping discussions every Wednesday at the Beekeepers' Association. Emir currently has 15 bee colonies and has produced a total of 100 kg of honey this year.</p> <p>Emir sold his honey products at the ZEPS fair and at the local fair in 2024. In addition to the economic benefits he gained at the fairs, this activity had an inclusive and socializing character for Emir. Namely, Emir spent a day alone without his parents for the first time in 2 years. For him, this has the greatest value. His goal is to create a small farm where he will have ovens, chickens and a greenhouse.</p>
<b>Testimony</b>	<p><i>"For me, this project is a new beginning. My wish to have bees has come true, I have learned a lot about them. In addition, I participated in the fair and met many customers."</i> said Emir</p>
<b>Photo of beneficiary</b>	
<p><i>Emir Muratović, 28, Beekeeping and Rural Development 449-23, Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina</i></p>	



## 9. Partnership

*What key partnerships were established during this calendar year, and how have they impacted—or are expected to impact—Muslim Aid's work? Illustrate the major development partners supporting Muslim Aid's work. Some of the major partners may not make a financial contribution to the Muslim Aid, but their work may synergize with that of the organisation. For example, a partnership with the UN agency may not necessarily be of a financial nature but could result in greater coverage of vulnerable or marginalized groups in the country. Acknowledge key government ministries and the areas of collaboration as relevant.*

**Please provide your response in no more than 350 words.**

Partnerships in the non-profit sector are critical for achieving shared goals, leveraging resources, and maximizing impact. Muslim Aid Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina collaborates every year with various stakeholders, including international organizations, governments, other NGOs etc.

The following on going or new partnerships have been established in 2024:

1. Major Donor-recipient partnerships with INGO Latter Days Saints Charities (LDSC)
2. Partnerships with Ministries and Institutes (Ministry of Education and Culture of Tuzla Canton, Pedagogical Institute of Tuzla Canton, Ministry of Labour, Social Policy and Returnees of Tuzla Canton)
3. Institute for the Education of Persons with Mental and Physical Development Disabilities, Tuzla (Institute Tuzla)
4. Primary and secondary schools in Tuzla Canton for CBM Project
5. Primary schools in Jablanica, Vlasenica and Zenica for Beekeeping Project
6. Partnerships with local governments i.e. 14 municipalities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Sustainable Livelihood projects (i.e. 10 for greenhouse project, 2 for beekeeping project and 2 for pregnant heifer livestock project)
7. Beekeeping Associations in 3 municipalities

By working together, we have combined our financial resources, funding, infrastructure, strengths and expertise to address complex challenges on several projects. On CBM project: using experts from the institutes/schools for teacher and parents training sessions, using institutes and schools as venues to conduct training for teachers, parents and children, combining lobbying efforts towards Ministry of Education to sign MOUs related to MAA work in Tuzla canton schools.

On livelihood projects: Combining expert knowledge of MAA agronomists with municipality agronomist knowledge, local governments funding participation as donors, assistance in beneficiaries selection process, field and terrain local knowledge etc.

This has led to more innovative solutions and greater learning particularly on CBM project. Also, we were able to scale up our operations, complement or supplement the work of local governments and increase the reach and the number of beneficiaries in the agriculture and farming projects. If MAA was working alone without the support of the funds and staff capacity from the other donors, we would able to reach only 20%-25% of beneficiaries that we are reaching now.

Our main partnership highlights:

- Muslim Aid Association jointly with our major donor Letter Days Saints Charities (LDSC) marked and celebrated 10 years of our partnership in June 2024. In this event at least 10 key people were present including the Director of Humanitarian Operations from the Church. Many representatives from at least 50 municipalities, government ministries, partner NGOs were also part of the event as well as our project beneficiaries. This event has further strengthened our partnership for the years to come. <https://news-europe.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/celebrating-10-years-of-working-with-muslim-aid-to-help-citizens-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina>
- Signed a Framework Agreement with Pedagogical Institute of Tuzla Canton <https://muslimaidbih.org/aktuelnosti/potpisivanje-memoranduma-o-razumjevanju-i-saradnji-sa-pedagoskim-zavodom-tuzlanskog-kantona/>

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- Achieved contact with the Bosnian-Swedish influencer Vahid who came to fund raise for the victims of floods and landslides disaster. As a result, Vahid will be coming to BiH in March to collect materials for fundraising for MAA projects.

## 10. Budget

Please add the Monthly Management Report – MMR - link for this year (January – December 2024). This will include the full expenditure for the entire calendar year. Please use the specified Excel Monthly Management Report – MMR format provided by International Programmes Finance Lead.

Text here

MASTER budget format B&H	Summary 2024.							
INCOME	Admin B&H	Education	Seasonal projects	Livelihoods	Emergency	Orphan Sponsorship	Religious Dues	TOTAL
Donor 1 MUSLIM AID UK	-	340.143	71.747	-	41.295		147.888	601.073
Donor 2- LDSC	-	-	-	525.817	-	-	-	525.817
Donor 3 - Municipalities	-	-	-	582.103	-	-	-	582.103
Donor 4- Beneficiaries	-	-	-	199.307	-	-	-	199.307
Donor 5- MAUSA	-	-	63.266	-	-	141.703	-	204.969
Donor 6 - MA Sweden	-	-	-	35.285	-	-	-	35.285
Donor 7 - Loco donor	-	-	-	-	-	4.632	-	4.632
Donor 8- HUMANITY INCREASED USA	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.334	2.334
Others	747		-	-	1.769	-	-	2.516
Sub total	747	-	63.266	1.342.512	1.769	146.335	2.334	1.556.963
TOTAL INCOME	747.00	340.143	135.013	1.342.512	43.064	146.335	150.222	2.158.036

SUMMARY - actual cost

MASTER budget format B&H	Summary 2024.							
EXPENDITURE	Admin B&H	Education	Seasonal projects	Livelihoods	Emergency	Orphan Sponsorship	Religious Dues	TOTAL
1 PERSONNEL	25.576	93.819	20.423	131.455	5.488	10.720	20.344	307.825
2 ADMIN/ASSET		9.867	1.596	19.521	651	2.934	1.315	35.884
3 OPERATIONAL COST		263.330	204.633	1.228.788	38.986	133.043	121.538	1.990.319
4 M & E		5.519	1.414	16.046	-	-	580	23.558
6. INDIRECT COSTS		-	6.722	24.584	-	-	6.401	37.707
TOTAL	25.576	372.535	234.788	1.420.394	45.125	146.697	150.179	2.395.294

## 11. Links

*Provide links to significant events, milestones, and stories you would like to highlight about your organization. Please note that these stories may be featured in the Muslim Aid Global Annual Report 2024.*

<i>Short description</i>	<i>URL link (Google, Share Point, WeTransfer, etc)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celebrating 10 years partnership event with the Church</li> <li>BEE Friends Campaign</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://news-europe.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/celebrating-10-years-of-working-with-muslim-aid-to-help-citizens-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina">https://news-europe.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/celebrating-10-years-of-working-with-muslim-aid-to-help-citizens-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina</a></li> <li><a href="https://vimeo.com/959820070">https://vimeo.com/959820070</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYBJUWuZGH4&amp;t=144s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYBJUWuZGH4&amp;t=144s</a></li> </ul>

## 12. Declaration

I confirm on behalf of Muslim Aid Associations that to the best of my knowledge, all information provided in this Annual Report is accurate and that all funding has been utilised for the purposes indicated in the narrative report and financial reporting in the agreed and specified formats. I confirm that all required information has been shared during the calendar year to HQ through the specified communication channels to the designated people.

<p>Name: Edina Šehić Saliji</p> <p>Position: Executive Director</p> <p>Signature:</p>  <p>Date: 31.01.2024.</p>	<p>Name: India Špiljak</p> <p>Position: Finance Manager</p> <p>Signature:</p>  <p>Date: 31.01.2024.</p>
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