

## The Rehana Foundation Overseas Partnership



In the last few years, the Islamic Unity Society (IUS) and the Rehana Foundation (Charity Number RP/6682/5/113945) have worked in partnership to provide relief to the flood affected peoples of Pakistan.

### Background

The 2010 Pakistan Floods were labelled by the United Nations as the greatest humanitarian crisis in recent history.

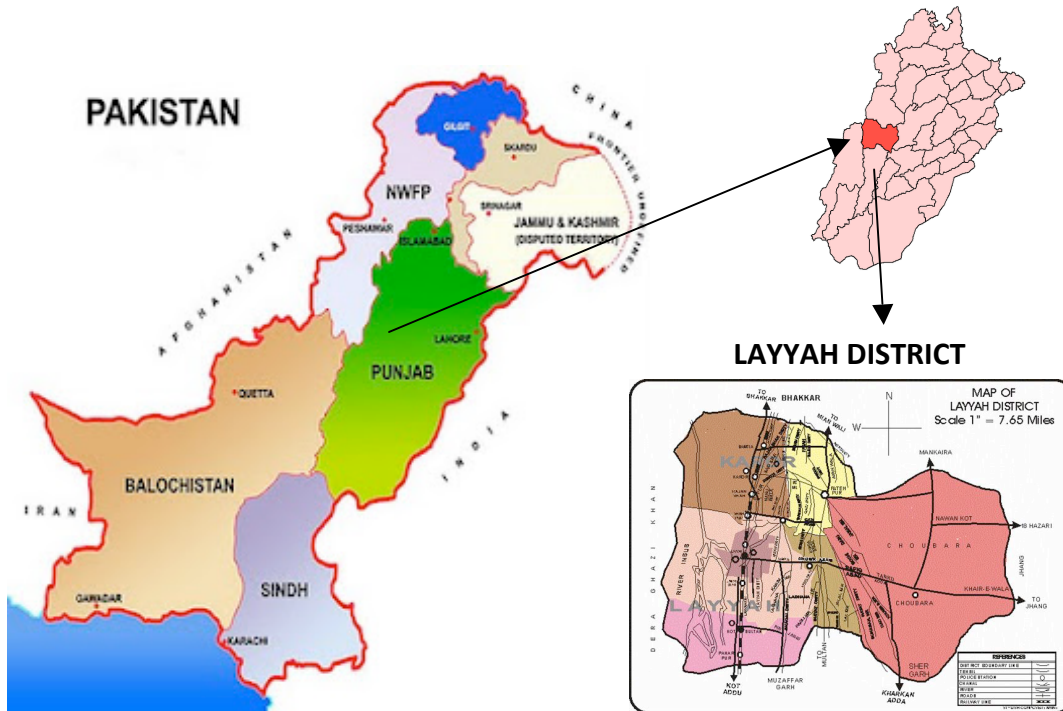
- Heavy monsoon rains falling in Northwestern Pakistan in July 2010 caused rivers to burst their banks and lead to one-fifth of Pakistan's landmass being underwater.
- Entire villages made of mud-brick houses were swept away and in the initial aftermath at least 1,600 were killed and 14 million people affected.
- At two months after the flooding 6 million people had been displaced by the flooding and more than 1.89 million homes destroyed.



## The Rehana Foundation

The Rehana Foundation was set up by Sister Rehana Jafree currently residing in Manchester, UK but who maintains strong connections in and around her hometown of Lahore, Pakistan.

- The Rehana Foundation aims to provide new housing to the flood affected peoples through the “Mera Ghar” (literally translates to “My House”) project.
- It concentrates on individuals living within several small, pre-dominantly Shia, villages in District Layyah Tehsil Karor Lal-e-Sen in Northern Pakistan.



**Map of Pakistan and District Layyah.**

Sourced from: [layyah.com/map.htm](http://layyah.com/map.htm), [muftpakistan.blogspot.co.uk/2011/06/map-of-pakistan.html](http://muftpakistan.blogspot.co.uk/2011/06/map-of-pakistan.html), [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Layyah\\_District.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Layyah_District.png)

## Partnership

The Islamic Unity Society and Muslim Student Council has been working in partnership with the Rehana Foundation to help raise money for the “Mera Ghar” project.

- During the month of Muharram in 2010/2011 volunteers from the IUS and MSC collected donations at Islamic Centre England, Ahlulbayt Islamic Mission and Muhammadi Trust.
- Fundraising drives were launched at IUS Manchester Majaalis and at Ashura Awareness Week at University locations across the country.
- Through awareness raising activities the IUS and MSC successfully raised over £13,000.

## Outcomes

The “Mera Ghar” project began in February 2011 with an extensive survey of the villages affected in District Layyah.

- Priority was given to those affected in the direct line of the floods, those still living in tents, the old, sick, orphans, widows, families with children and families who had sustained large personal and agricultural losses.
- A “build back better” policy was adopted to ensure newer houses had a more secure infrastructure installing girders as opposed to traditional mud and straw roofs.
- Locals were directly involved in the building of their own houses and the Rehana Foundation provided technical guidance where needed.
- Overall 28 new houses were built and a mausoleum room, in remembrance of the Holy Ahlul Bayt (a.s.).

**Sister Rehana Jafree in discussion with locals during the survey phase of the Mera Ghar project**



**“Pakka” houses built for Ghulam Bashir a cancer sufferer (right) and Naseem Mae a widow (left)**



## Future plans; The Al-Qaim School Project

The Rehana Foundation and IUS continue to work in partnership to support to those affected by the Pakistan floods.

Unfortunately, children within the village Basti Sarghani of District Layyah lack the funds and means to commute to established government and private schools in the region. A local village elder has kindly donated a piece of his land for the construction of a school. At present there is a makeshift building, known as the Al-Qaim school providing education for around 120 children.

However, the current infrastructure is insecure and the school lacks basic facilities;

- The building currently comprises one large room with an unsafe mud and straw roof offering little protection from rain water or shade from sunlight
- There is no electrical lighting which means children sit outside the building
- There are no desks or chairs for the students; they sit on mats in the courtyard, with no uniform and without proper stationary or books.
- The school lacks basic amenities such as an electricity supply, toilets, or an adequate drinking water system.

### IUS Chairman Brother Musa Naqvi and Rehana Foundation Lead Sister Rehana Jafree at the Al-Qaim School Entrance



### Children receiving their lessons in the school courtyard sitting on floor mats





If you would be able to support this cause and provide funds for the development of a safer infrastructure and learning environment that includes:

- A roof – to provide shelter from rainwater and heat
- Classrooms – to divide the students into segregated classes in order to focus their learning
- Electricity – to provide lighting and electric fans
- Furniture – desks and chairs are needed for the students
- Stationary and Books – books currently used are those recycled from the local government school
- Toilets and Water coolers – for basic sanitation and drinking water

These children deserve an education; indeed it is one of their basic rights. We have the means to help make this possible. The rewards for supporting this project and establishing the Al-Qaim School will perpetuate beyond our lifetime; inshallah.

**Please donate generously to the Al-Qaim School Project. You can do this:**

1) Online; please visit the following site to donate online:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Al-QaimSchoolProject>

2) Direct bank transfer; using the bank details below - please ensure that the reference is **Charities Al-Qaim**:

Account number:	70998737
Sort Code:	20-10-53
Account name:	Islamic Unity Society
Bank:	Barclays Bank PLC
Branch:	Bloomsbury and Tottenham Court Road
Reference:	Charities Al-Qaim

3) Make a pledge; please call 07883069593 for more details.

Every donation will help to improve the education and provide a suitable learning environment for the children of District Layyah. A full breakdown of where the money is spent will be available later on.

For more information please call 07883069593 or email [chairman@ius.org.uk](mailto:chairman@ius.org.uk).

**Rehana Foundation is registered A.R. Welfare Foundation (Charity Number RP/6682/5/113945) under the Societies Act XXI of 1860 in Pakistan.**