

# Umrah for Orphans Feedback Report 2025

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## Islamic Help



EMPOWERING PEOPLE IN NEED



# Jazakallah Khair for your support.

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu

Thanks to your kind and generous support, we were able to take 150 Palestinian orphans on the blessed pilgrimage to the Holy Lands of Makkah and Madinah.

Joining the orphans on this special journey were some of their widowed mothers and daughters, all accompanied by female staff from the UK and Jordan.

In addition to the orphans and widows, we were also privileged to take 11 children with disabilities, including 3 deaf boys, 3 blind boys, and 5 deaf girls.

At Islamic Help, we believe strongly in the power of resilience through faith. This programme is a shining example of how faith and care can uplift those who have faced unimaginable hardships. It's a beautiful journey to sacred places, but also a journey to renewed hope and brighter futures.



**The journey began  
on 5th January 2025  
from the Jordanian  
capital, Amman,  
with four coaches  
filled with excited  
children and adults,  
all eager for the  
experience ahead.**





## Starting the Journey at **The blessed lands of Madinah**

**After an exhausting road trip of more than 40 hours, with regular stops for food and rest, the orphans arrived in the blessed city of Madinah.**

During their stay, they had the privilege of visiting Masjid al-Nabawi, where they gave their salaams to the Prophet (PBUH) as well as praying in Riyad al-Jannah.



**The orphans explored several historical sites, enriching their spiritual experience, one being Mount Uhud just outside Madinah.**

One of the most important sites in Islamic history, it was the setting for the crucial battle of Uhud and is the resting place of Hamza ibn'Abd al-Muttalib (may Allah be pleased with him), an uncle of the Prophet (PBUH), and several of the Prophet's Companions (may Allah be pleased with them).

The orphans also visited Masjid Quba, which holds the distinction of being the very first mosque in the history of Islam. Before the construction of Masjid al-Nabawi in Madinah, Masjid Quba served as the primary place of worship for Muslims.







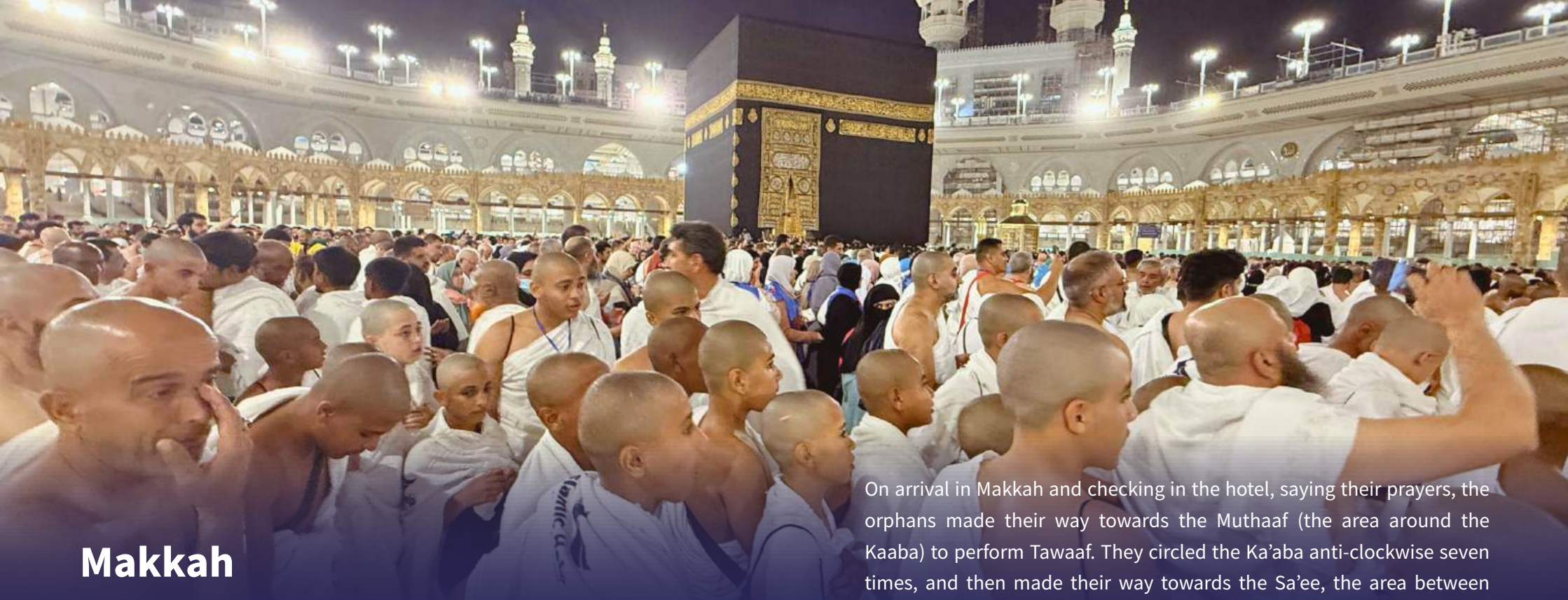
## Preparing the soul **Daily Tarbiyyah Classes**

**Every morning after Fajr Salah, the orphans and widows attended Tarbiyyah classes and received daily Islamic reminders.**

On one special occasion, they were honoured to have renowned scholar Imam Khalid Latif, who is the Chaplain and Executive Director of the Islamic Center, New York University visit and inspire them with a brief talk. His words resonated deeply with the children, who felt inspired.







## Makkah

As their time in Madinah came to an end, the orphans set out for Makkah to complete their Umrah. The journey began at the Miqaat point in Madinah, Masjid Dhul Hulayfah, where the orphans prepared to go in the state of Ihraam. The masjid was designated as the miqaat (the stated place for going into Ihraam) by the Prophet (PBUH) for those going from Madinah to perform Hajj or Umrah.

This is the point at which pilgrims must don their special garments, with the males wearing the customary white cloths, marking the beginning of the sacred rituals for Umrah. Each orphan was given a dua booklet to carry with them, allowing them to continuously make dua for themselves, their sponsors, and the sponsors' families during their journey.

On arrival in Makkah and checking in the hotel, saying their prayers, the orphans made their way towards the Muthaaf (the area around the Kaaba) to perform Tawaaf. They circled the Ka'aba anti-clockwise seven times, and then made their way towards the Sa'ee, the area between Mount Safa and Marwah.



Walking between Mount Safa and Marwah seven times replicates the actions of Hajra (alayhis salaam), the wife of the Prophet Ibrahim (alayhis salaam), who rushed seven times between Safa and Marwah to see if she could find water for her infant child Ismail (alayhis salaam).



Having almost completed their Umrah, all that remained for the orphans was the Halaq – shaving off the hair on their heads. It is obligatory for males to perform Halaq and females to carry out Taqsir - which involves trimming the hair on the head by at least an inch – to leave the state of Ihraam.





## Paying Tribute Through **Second Umrah**

After two days of rest, the orphans performed a second Umrah on behalf of their deceased fathers.







## Honouring the Guests **Accommodation and Food**

During their stay in Makkah, the orphans were accommodated in the luxurious Marriot Hotel. The orphans delighted in a wide range of foods, from local delicacies to familiar home comforts, making their journey even more special.







## Reflecting on the Journey **Farewell Ceremony**

All the participants – orphans, widows and guardians – were each given gifts, dates and and 10 litres of Zamzam water.



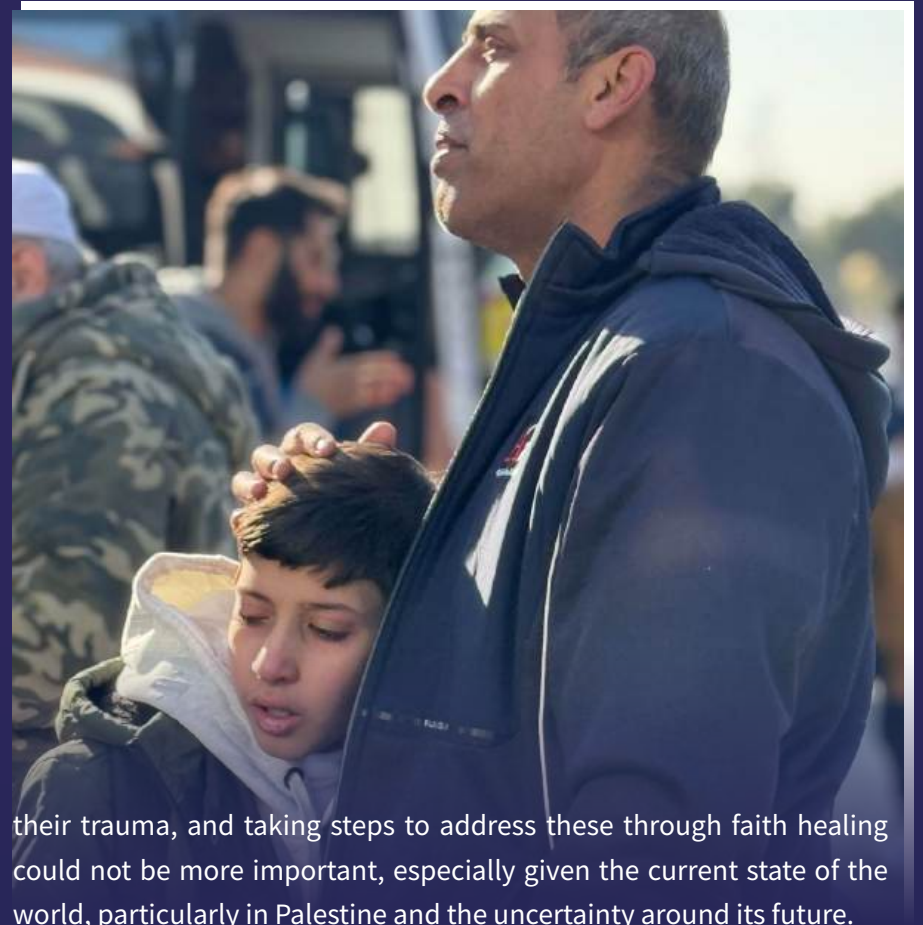
Islamic Help ambassador Faraz Yousafzai was presented with an award by IH staff member Adham Karaker, in recognition of his contribution to the Umrah for Orphans programme.





## Using Faith to Build Resilience **Psychosocial Support**

Umrah for Orphans is a project which promotes healing through faith. Islamic Help enhanced the psychosocial support (PSS) aspect of the programme to promote children's wellbeing and ensure that all children who participated in the programme benefited in a positive way. The team did sample assessments on the children to better understand their mental wellbeing, social-emotional state and accordingly take steps to provide them with the support they required. From the assessments conducted, it was clear that many children suffered from anxiety and depression as well as profound sadness due to the ongoing tragedy of Gaza. Many children live in the Gaza refugee camp in Jerash, Jordan, and feel a deep-seated connection to the Occupied Territory – some still have family members living there. It was clear that there were many layers to



their trauma, and taking steps to address these through faith healing could not be more important, especially given the current state of the world, particularly in Palestine and the uncertainty around its future.

PSS is essential to helping those affected by crisis to heal and recover. Trauma can take many forms, and if not addressed appropriately it can leave long-term scars that have an adverse impact later in life such as poor performance in education or work, isolation, depression and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). By supporting the orphans on their Umrah journey, we're helping them to heal and recover, overcome their trauma, build resilience and in turn lead happier, prosperous and more fulfilling lives that, Insha'Allah, contribute to the future socio-economic development and cohesion of their communities.



Travelling as a group of approx. 200 people, eating together, praying together, and performing Umrah together was a life-changing experience for the children and widows. They consistently made duas for everyone that had allowed them to participate in this journey and it was clear that their faith was strengthened. They had an opportunity to reconnect with Allah swt; unite with the Ummah; and experience the sense of belonging and oneness with each other. The journey was physical, spiritual and emotional, leaving the participants feeling rejuvenated, enlightened and motivated to become better. By encouraging positive growth and development through faith, prayer and community spirit, we're hopeful that these children will be beneficial influencers in their societies going forward.

We are deeply grateful for your support, which made this life-changing experience possible for these orphans. Thank you once again for your generosity. May Allah swt reward you abundantly.







## Case Study 1.

# Ali Basaam Muhammad Jafar

A Palestinian orphan, Ali lives in the Gaza refugee camp in Jerash, Jordan, with his five siblings. Aged 12 years and in 6th grade at an UNRWA school, the youngsters aspires to become an engineer. His father tragically passed away after an unforgiving battle with cancer.

His father tragically passed away after an unforgiving battle with cancer. Moreover, his mother went to visit Gaza before the latest war and has been stuck in the war zone since October 2023. Despite all this, Ali portrays an incredible resilience for his age, taking initiative and memorising short surahs from the Qur'an. He wanted to focus his Umrah dua on his mother's safe return to Jordan, as well as dedicating a Umrah for his deceased father.







## Case Study 2. **Manal Salim Abu Azum**

With her 4 daughters, who were orphaned in 2016 after their father suffered a sudden heart attack, the widowed Manal lives a life of survival in the Gaza refugee camp in Jerash. She has been blessed with daughters who are all very studious and hardworking and achieving top grades.

For eight years however, they were unsuccessful in their applications for passports as they only had Egyptian travel documents. Last year, one of the girls, Ru'a, prayed Qiyaam ul Layl and asked Allah swt to help them with this. Shortly afterwards, their application was accepted, and they were able to get the necessary travel documents for Umrah. Ru'a talked about having dreamt of the Prophet (PBUH). They had wanted to go on Umrah for a very long time, and put 25 piasters towards this every day in the hopes of one day making this dream a reality.





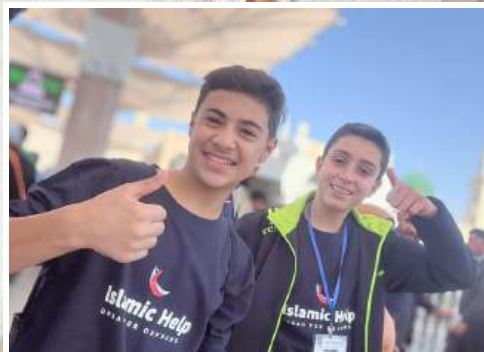
### Case Study 3.

## Saif

He caught a virus as a newborn in the hospital incubators that unfortunately left him blind. Despite the hardships him and his family have faced, he has a warm and inviting spirit and a smile that would light up a room. Although Jordan is especially difficult for disabled people to navigate, this doesn't stop Saif from going to the mosque to pray every Friday prayer with his brother as a guide.











# Umrah for Orphans

## Restoring Faith, Restoring Dreams.

Thank you for all your support in making these orphans, disabled children and widows dreams come true – please continue to support this beautiful project so we can take more Palestinian Orphans to Umrah

[islamichelp.org.uk](http://islamichelp.org.uk)

