



Invitation to consultations with stakeholders Nairobi, 14 April 2026

We are pleased to invite you to a Stakeholder Consultation exploring how Islamic philanthropy can be leveraged to improve humanitarian work for displaced women.

The meeting aims to discuss your views on a research design of the project on the role of Islamic giving in helping displaced people in Nairobi. This meeting does not involve doing interviews or group discussions, instead it will be discussion of the topics to be included in research activities.

Background

This event is organised under 'Making Aid Work for Displaced Women' project, which is UK Research Innovation-funded multi-country initiative with strong participatory research, policy and capacity building components to help strengthen responses to women in displacement. The project involves a global analysis and case studies in some of the largest Muslim-majority and minority refugee-hosting countries, focusing on some of the most protracted displacement crises, including Türkiye, Kenya, Bangladesh and the UK.

Purpose of Stakeholder Consultation

This consultation seeks to identify priority issues affecting displaced women, map relevant actors and partnerships, and strengthen collaboration between faith-based and humanitarian stakeholders to ensure our research is contextually grounded and practically relevant. We welcome all practitioners who are interested in exploring the potential of Islamic philanthropy to advance interventions/programmes to strengthen assistance and protection of women in displacement.

Objectives

- Discuss key terms and terminologies – what does Islamic philanthropy mean for local communities? What instruments and mechanisms are well known?
- Discuss local priority areas at the intersection of Islamic philanthropy and displaced women's issues. How does Islamic philanthropy matter for women?
- Examine opportunities and challenges for Islamic philanthropy tools to promote the inclusion and protection of conflict-affected and displaced women in the region
- Exchange examples of locally grounded good practices from Islamic philanthropy actors and initiatives that strengthen displaced women's resilience and well-being by sensitively responding to their diverse needs

Why Participate

By joining this session, you will contribute to the humanitarian practice and policy dialogue, and influence how Islamic philanthropy is understood and mobilised globally and locally, and help design approaches that centre dignity, faith, and protection for displaced women.

Format

An interactive roundtable discussion on the basis of Chatham House rules to encourage inclusive and open dialogue concerning good practices and challenges in directing Islamic philanthropy resources to support women in conflict and displacement.

Examples of guiding questions we are planning to discuss during the session include the following:

1. What principles or values could form a common ground to strengthen assistance, inclusion and protection of displaced women among international humanitarian sector and Islamic philanthropy actors?
2. What are the myths, risks and ethical concerns which may hinder integration of Muslim philanthropy actors and humanitarian sector?
3. Who controls access to Islamic charity within households or communities?
4. What are the key elements of successful programmes or initiatives which applied Islamic philanthropy instruments to support the needs of displaced women?
5. What networks, platforms, tools and mutual learning opportunities are available for engagement?
6. In what ways can collaboration and capacity be strengthened to improve outcomes for women?
7. How to move forward: What action research ideas can enable/support joint initiatives between Islamic and non-faith-based actors?

Participants

The event will engage representatives from local faith-based and grassroots organisations, women-led organisations, NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies working on the intersection of protection, migration and fundraising.

Proposed agenda (duration of around 3 hours)

- Welcome and introductions by organisers and partners (30 min)
- Overview presentation about the event and key questions (20 min)
- Roundtable discussions (90 min)
- Next steps and way forward (2026-2028) (30 min)

Outcomes

- Trust-building exercise and introductions of team members and project
- Initiating a process for fostering better understanding between local actors, encourage technical exchange, and build dialogue to integrate sensitivity to intersecting needs of displaced women.

Location and date: Nairobi, 14 April 2026 (venue TBC)

Cohosts: Refugee Youth Education Hub (RYEH), Kenya Red Cross

Contact: Dr Sandra Pertek, UKRI Research Fellow, makingaidwork@contacts.bham.ac.uk

