



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



UK Research
and Innovation



CENTER FOR CONFLICT AND
HUMANITARIAN STUDIES

Inspiring humanitarian, development and peace nexus futures: Exploring the value- based philanthropy for displaced women

Engaging with Islamic philanthropic actors and principles

Sandra Pertek, Natalia Paszkiewicz, Muhammad Nabil,
Jessica Skinner, Iffat Idris, Nawar Al-Jasem et al.

17 June 2026

www.makingaidwork.org

MAKING
AID WORK
FOR DISPLACED
WOMEN



Agenda

12:00–12:10 Welcome and opening remarks

12:10–12:30 Research findings

12:30–13:00 Expert discussion

13:00–13:20 Audience Q&A

13:20–13:30 Closing remarks





UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



UK Research
and Innovation



CENTER FOR CONFLICT AND
HUMANITARIAN STUDIES



Preliminary Research Findings

Connecting aid approaches cross-cultures

The background of the slide features a silhouette of a group of people, likely refugees, walking across a landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, and the ground is dark. The people are carrying various items, including bags and bundles, suggesting they are on a journey.

Disconnected aid systems

Limited understanding of Islamic philanthropy → protection gaps

Connecting aid systems

Building robust evidence and aid integration cross-sectors

Saving lives, improving outcomes

Pathways for integrated aid and inclusive humanitarian policy

Vision: A life-saving integrated aid for women in displacement

GLOBAL CHALLENGE:

1% of aid spending goes to protection from gender-based violence (UN Women, 2023)
'Zakat' ('wealth tax') is estimated at trillion dollars annually

Mission:

To connect mainstream and faith-based approaches to aid to improve outcomes for displaced women

Inspiring an inclusive humanitarian and migration policy

5

GENDER
EQUALITY



16

PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



MAKING
AID WORK

FOR DISPLACED
WOMEN



Background

- Disintegration of gender equality and protection in a multipolar humanitarian system among the budget cuts
- Return to value-based resources to fill the funding gaps
- Value-based philanthropy refers to giving guided by clearly defined ethical, cultural, or moral values
- Islamic philanthropy actors and principles to address humanitarian, development and peace nexus



MAKING
AID WORK

FOR DISPLACED
WOMEN



Emerging desk-based evidence

Working Paper 1: (Dis)connects between Islamic philanthropy and the international humanitarian system: Implications for women

Working Paper 2: Financing displaced women's resilience: A conceptual framework from Islamic philanthropy

International mapping: Ecosystem of Islamic social finance for women in conflict and displacement: Global mapping of Muslim donors and charities

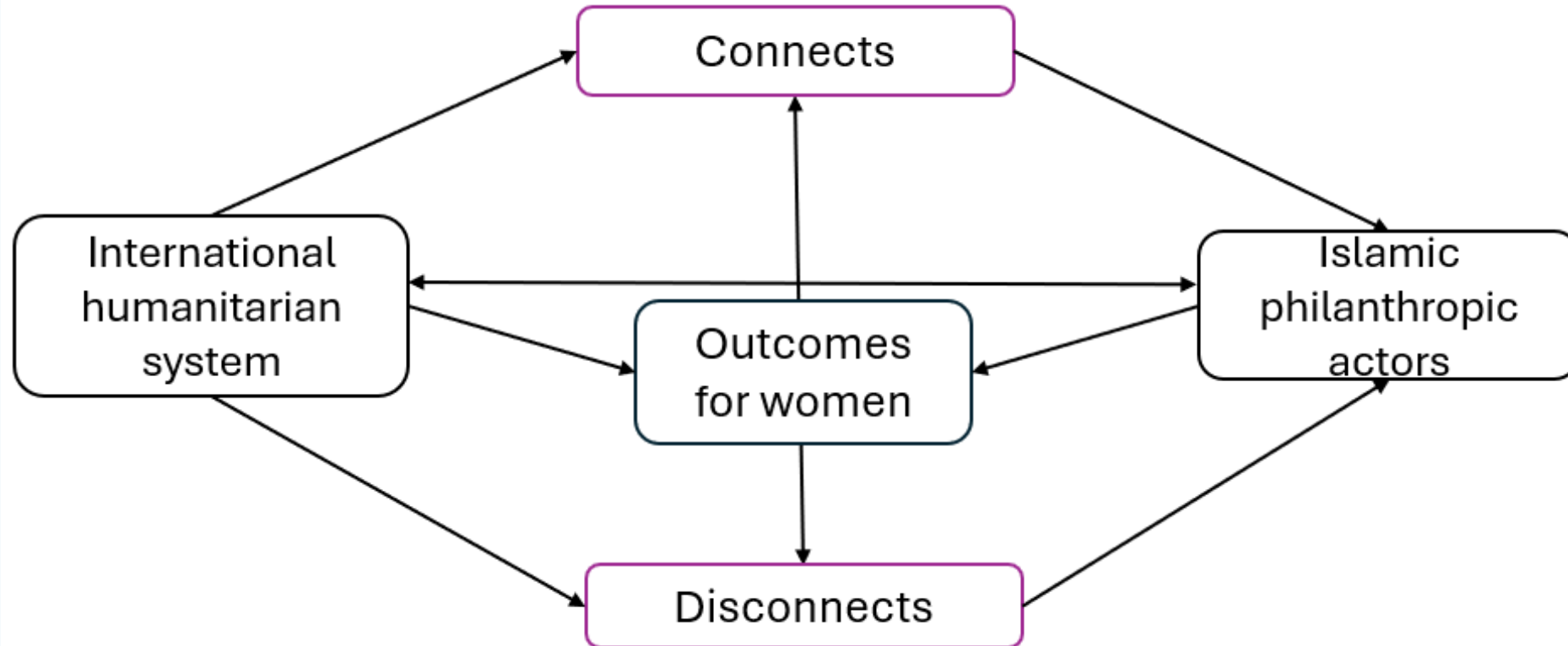
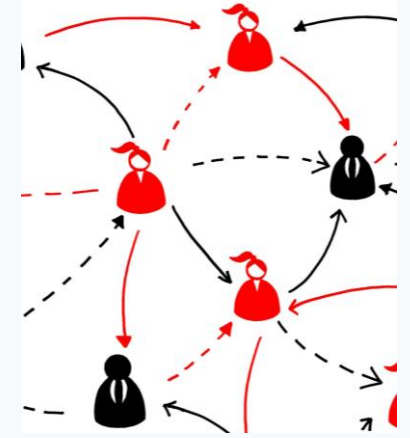
UK mapping: How international Muslim charities in the UK support women in conflict and displacement

MAKING
AID WORK

FOR DISPLACED
WOMEN



Conceptual framework of interactions between IHS and IsP actors



MAKING
AID WORK

FOR DISPLACED
WOMEN



Women's protection framework: Values, ethics and faith



- A four-fold case: practical, historical, ethical and legal, and scriptural
- Islamic philanthropy principles: More than finance
- Rooted in the discourse on rights to migration, protection and relief (*hijra, aman, ighatha, hurma*)



Mapping reports

Global Mapping of Islamic Social Finance

- Maps major donors, instruments, ecosystems
- Diversity of actors (states, NGOs, UN partnerships)
- Shows scale ($\approx 11\%$ of global humanitarian funding comes from Muslim-majority donors)
- Identifies gaps in gender frameworks and transparency

UK Mapping of Muslim Charities

- High levels of giving (£1.48–£2.2bn annually)
- Extensive multi-sector support for women (health, livelihoods, protection)
- Mostly implicit gender sensitivity, not explicit policy on women in emergencies
- Strong practice but under-recognised and under-documented

MAKING
AID WORK

FOR DISPLACED
WOMEN





Engagement-focused outputs

- Geneva outcome note 2025: Pathways to impact: Engaging with Islamic philanthropy to improve protection outcomes for displaced women
- Nairobi outcome note 2026: Engaging with Islamic Philanthropy to Improve Outcomes for Displaced Women
- Policy brief 2025: Towards Inclusive Humanitarian Finance: Bridging Gender, Displacement and Islamic Philanthropy
- Policy brief 2026: Resourcing Displaced Women's Resilience: Faith Financing for Humanitarian Innovation in East Africa



Promising practices

- UNHCR's Refugee Zakat Fund attracts diverse diaspora donors
- UNHCR's Global Islamic Fund for Refugees (GIFR), established with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- IOM's Islamic Philanthropy Fund (IPF) e.g. addresses trafficking
- Qatar's Women in Conflict Zones Initiative
- UK-based Muslim charities, e.g. Islamic Relief Worldwide, Muslim Aid
- Displaced women, including survivors of violence, have been identified in specific contexts as eligible for assistance under relevant Zakat categories
- Other examples: Community-based Islamic microfinance models in pre-conflict Yemen, Islamic financing to women-led small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Malaysia and Indonesia's Islamic Credit Unions

MAKING
AID WORK

FOR DISPLACED
WOMEN



Conclusion

- Missed financing opportunity: substantial faith-based resources are yet to be strategically engaged
- Missed gender equality opportunity: programmes lack consistent gender frameworks and reporting.
 - Growing Appetite for Collaboration
 - Shared Ethical Foundations
 - Faith for Rights – Faith sensitive protection frameworks
 - Potential for Sustainable, Gender-Responsive Financing



MAKING
AID WORK

FOR DISPLACED
WOMEN



Implications for Humanitarian Financing Reform (re: ECOSOC humanitarian segment)

- **For donors:** Islamic philanthropy represents a complementary and under-leveraged financing stream that can inform localisation with women-sensitive outcomes. Strategic co-financing, matched funding and support for pooled or waqf-based mechanisms can reduce reliance on short-term emergency appeals.
- **For governments:** Recognising Islamic philanthropy within national humanitarian financing frameworks can unlock domestic resources, improve coordination and strengthen accountability.
- **For the UN and international agencies:** Engagement with Islamic philanthropy actors can improve reach among displaced populations, particularly women and reduce trust deficits. Aligning safeguarding, protection, and reporting standards—rather than imposing parallel systems—are key for multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- **For interfaith platforms:** Bridging faith- and non-faith-based philanthropy can challenge misconceptions, promote shared humanitarian values and foster collective action around women's protection and agency.

MAKING
AID WORK

FOR DISPLACED
WOMEN



Recommendations

Develop enabling policy frameworks that recognise Islamic philanthropic instruments as part of national humanitarian financing

Build capacity: shared SOPs and social performance standards.

Prioritise women's leadership - partner with women-led organisations

Cultural diplomacy to build trust and a shared language

Advance dialogue on humanitarian principles to women's protection

Pilot women-centred instruments

Next steps

- High-level event at UNGA: *Building Trust through Inclusive Humanitarian Financing for Women and Girls in Conflict and Displacement*
- Regional working group starting to work on the guidance note and pledge mobilisation / declaration (join co-production process)
- Primary data collection in four research sites (Kenya, Turkey, Bangladesh, UK)

Today, we'd like to hear from you any recommendations for our fieldwork plans and research design.

MAKING
AID WORK

FOR DISPLACED
WOMEN



Moderator:
Dr Ghassan Elkahlout

Discussants

Dr Alaa Murabit - UN SDG Advocate; Commissioner, Lancet-Georgetown Commission on Faith, Trust and Health; Managing Partner, 500 Global

Saleh Mohamed Saleh Al-Yamani - Senior Prosecutor, Egyptian Public Prosecution & Lecturer in Economics and Public Finance, Al-Azhar University

Wilson Owino Opudo - Research Manager, International Centre for Humanitarian Affairs (ICHA), Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS)

MAKING
AID WORK

FOR DISPLACED
WOMEN





UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



UK Research
and Innovation



CENTER FOR CONFLICT AND
HUMANITARIAN STUDIES



Q&A

Thank you