



National Zakat
Foundation™

2018 Impact Report



We have reached an amazing milestone



May the peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you and your family.

It's been seven years since I started at National Zakat Foundation (NZF), and we have reached an amazing milestone. With the help of God Almighty and thanks to your support, **we have helped over 10,000 people with over £10m of Zakat funds.** Over a quarter of those individuals have been supported in the last 12 months.

Thank you for your support

I'm very grateful to our staff and volunteers whose dedication and expertise bring hope to the people who are most in need. They have been able to assist the most vulnerable in our community to get on the path to being independent and feel confident about their future. It's amazing to see how this has a direct and beneficial impact on their faith in God and their sense of belonging to a community.

Serving people most in need

Our Economic Empowerment Programme will continue to serve those most in need, and we have embarked on an exciting redesign of our offering in 2019 to improve the efficiency of our service.

This is a key component of our effort to provide an effective and efficient grant-giving system for those in hardship.

Comprehensive Zakat distribution

In 2018, we introduced our Zakat Distribution Strategy and introduced our Community Development Programme. We have now renamed it the Leadership Investment Programme to reflect our support for the development of emerging leaders – our future imams, scholars and community activists – as well as those already leading critical Muslim institutions.

This unique and vital element of our Zakat distribution ensures that we are able to do more justice to the overarching purpose of Zakat. Qur'anic guidance is for Zakat to be distributed across eight categories, and this is what makes it such a comprehensive support mechanism for a community of believers.

Always improving

Over the years, NZF has experienced a huge amount of change. Borne out of a desire to ensure that we are travelling in the right direction, there have been constant improvements to our strategic and operational model. Now, however,

I can say with confidence that our core building blocks are in place and that our long-term intent is both fixed and clear.

Local Zakat – together

We believe in the local, unified and balanced distribution of Zakat as a vital means to uphold submission to God (Islam) in our society. Our mission remains to distribute Zakat transformatively across the United Kingdom. Our vision will always be for Islam to flourish in society as a source of prosperity and harmony for all.

So thank you for supporting the future of Islam in our country through National Zakat Foundation. I look forward to sharing updates with you throughout 2019 and hope that you will not only stay with us on this journey, but that you will be able to help bring others along too.

In this way, with the help of our Lord, together we will accomplish our vision.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Iqbal Nasim".

Iqbal Nasim
Chief Executive

The big picture in 2018

Updated April 2019

Last year, thanks to your support, we were able to provide Zakat grants to UK Muslims and organisations.

We couldn't have done this without thousands of people choosing to pay their Zakat locally.

£3.4m
Zakat distributed

2,500+
people supported

82%
Zakat spent on Economic Empowerment Programme

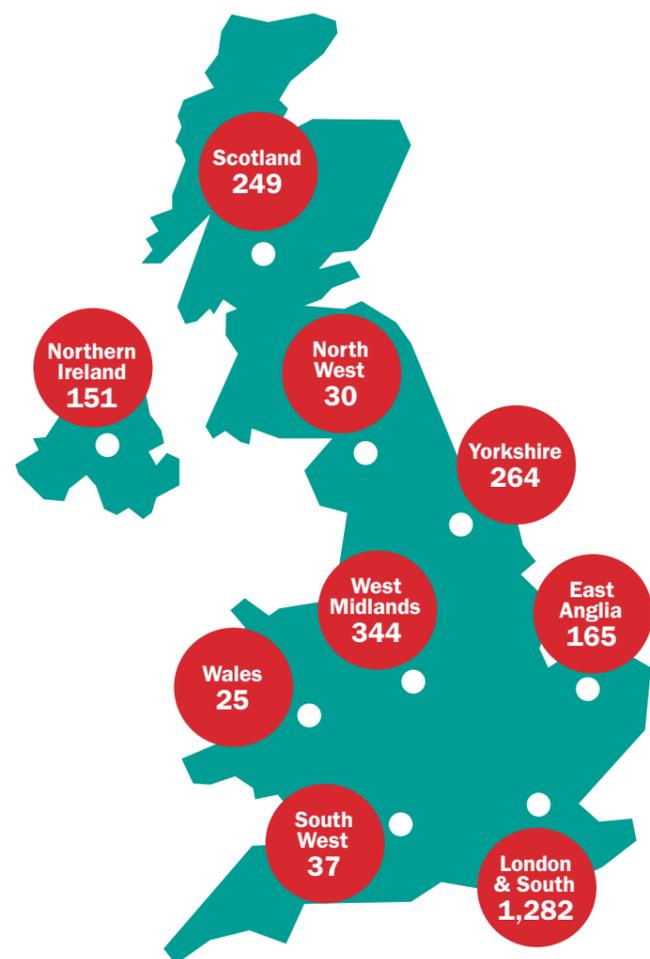
18%
Zakat spent on Leadership Investment Programme

(All figures are unaudited)

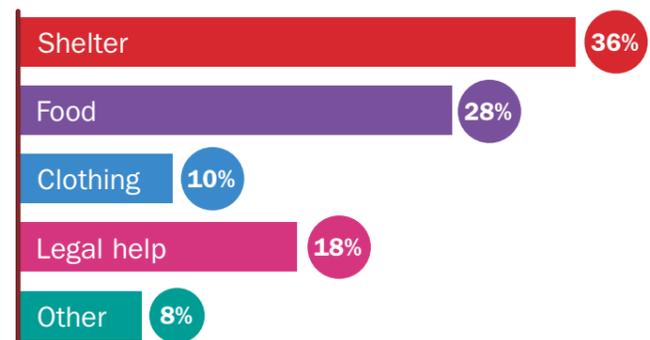
Economic Empowerment Programme

We supported Muslims in the UK who were in hardship, helping them turn their situation around and become financially independent.

Zakat recipients across the UK



What your Zakat helped with



Leadership Investment Programme*

We invested in leading institutions and in emerging leaders – our future imams, scholars and community activists. This gave them greater capacity to provide us with solutions for the challenges we face at home, at work and in wider society.



30

people were awarded grants through our Muslim Leaders Development Fund, in partnership with the Aziz Foundation. These awardees were divided into 3 categories:

18

Religious Scholarship & Literacy

8

Better Public Perception

4

Effective Representation



60%

Male



40%

Female

*previously named as Community Development



16

vital projects and institutions across the country were supported. The flagship initiatives were:

Ramadan Tent Project

MCB's Centre for Media Monitoring

Cambridge Muslim College

Abu Hanifah Foundation

MCB's Visit My Mosque

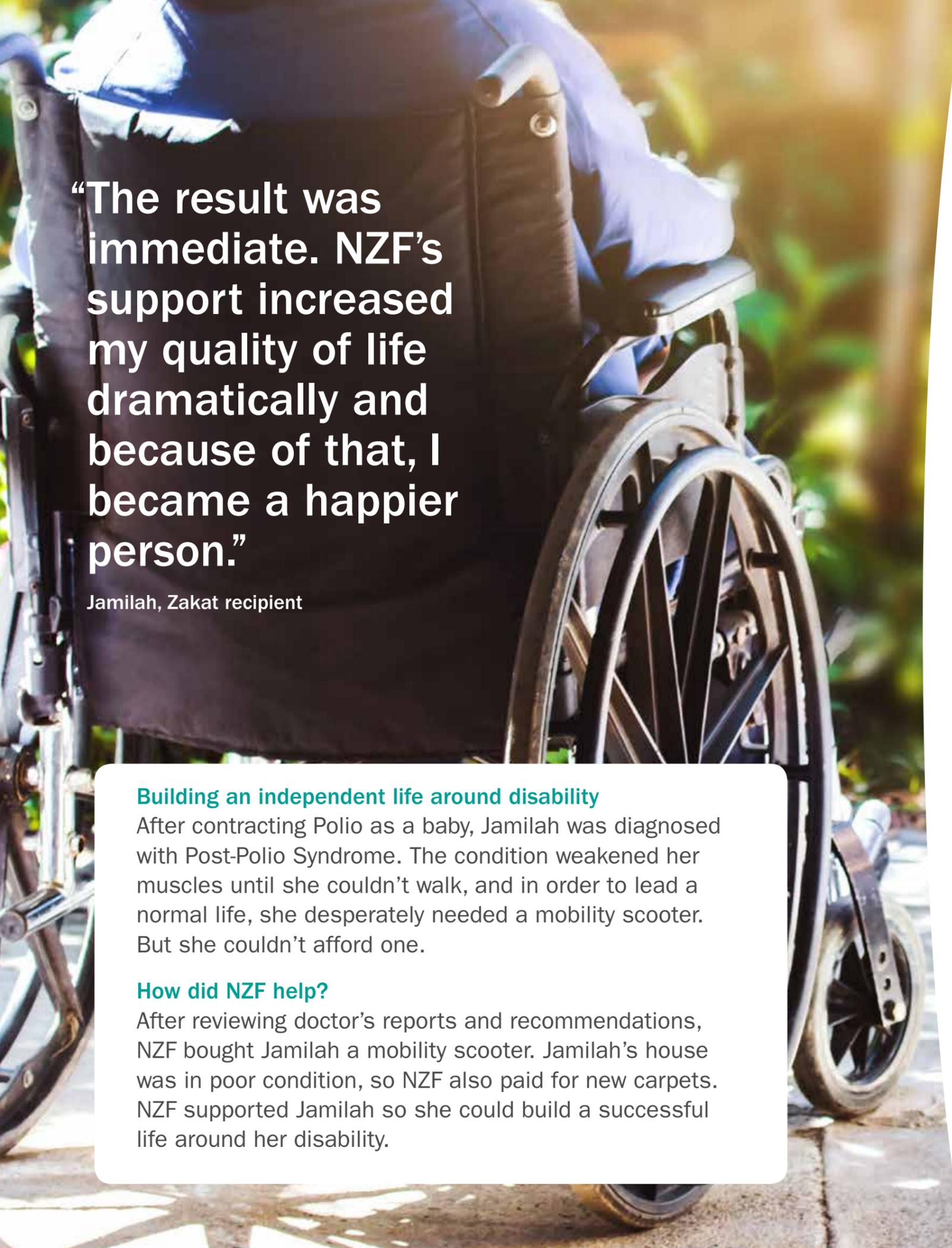
Muslim chaplaincy services at 3 London universities

NZF distributes Zakat to individuals in need and invests in leaders in the community.

We award Zakat grants to UK Muslims and institutions, making a positive and life-changing impact.

We have two programmes that work together to achieve this.





“The result was immediate. NZF’s support increased my quality of life dramatically and because of that, I became a happier person.”

Jamilah, Zakat recipient

Building an independent life around disability

After contracting Polio as a baby, Jamilah was diagnosed with Post-Polio Syndrome. The condition weakened her muscles until she couldn’t walk, and in order to lead a normal life, she desperately needed a mobility scooter. But she couldn’t afford one.

How did NZF help?

After reviewing doctor’s reports and recommendations, NZF bought Jamilah a mobility scooter. Jamilah’s house was in poor condition, so NZF also paid for new carpets. NZF supported Jamilah so she could build a successful life around her disability.

Economic Empowerment Programme

When somebody in need applies for a Zakat grant, our experts assess their situation in detail.

How we help

If we find they're eligible for NZF support, we then identify the best way to help.

Apply

Muslims in the UK apply online. Often, it's mosques, hospitals, the police and other charities that encourage Muslims in hardship to apply for NZF's hardship grant.

This is how the application process works:

1. The person in hardship contacts NZF and explains their situation.
2. They give full details of their income, expenses, assets and debts.
3. They provide evidence of their identity, their situation, and their financial circumstances.
4. They tell us how they'd like NZF to help them.

Assess

NZF has a team of specially trained Programme Officers who work to find the best solution to help a person in hardship. Their combined experience includes immigration law, working for the local council and Citizens Advice.

They speak to the person applying for support so they can better understand their situation, then they use this information to assess the application.

Decide

We work with the person in hardship to identify a solution that will help them become financially independent.

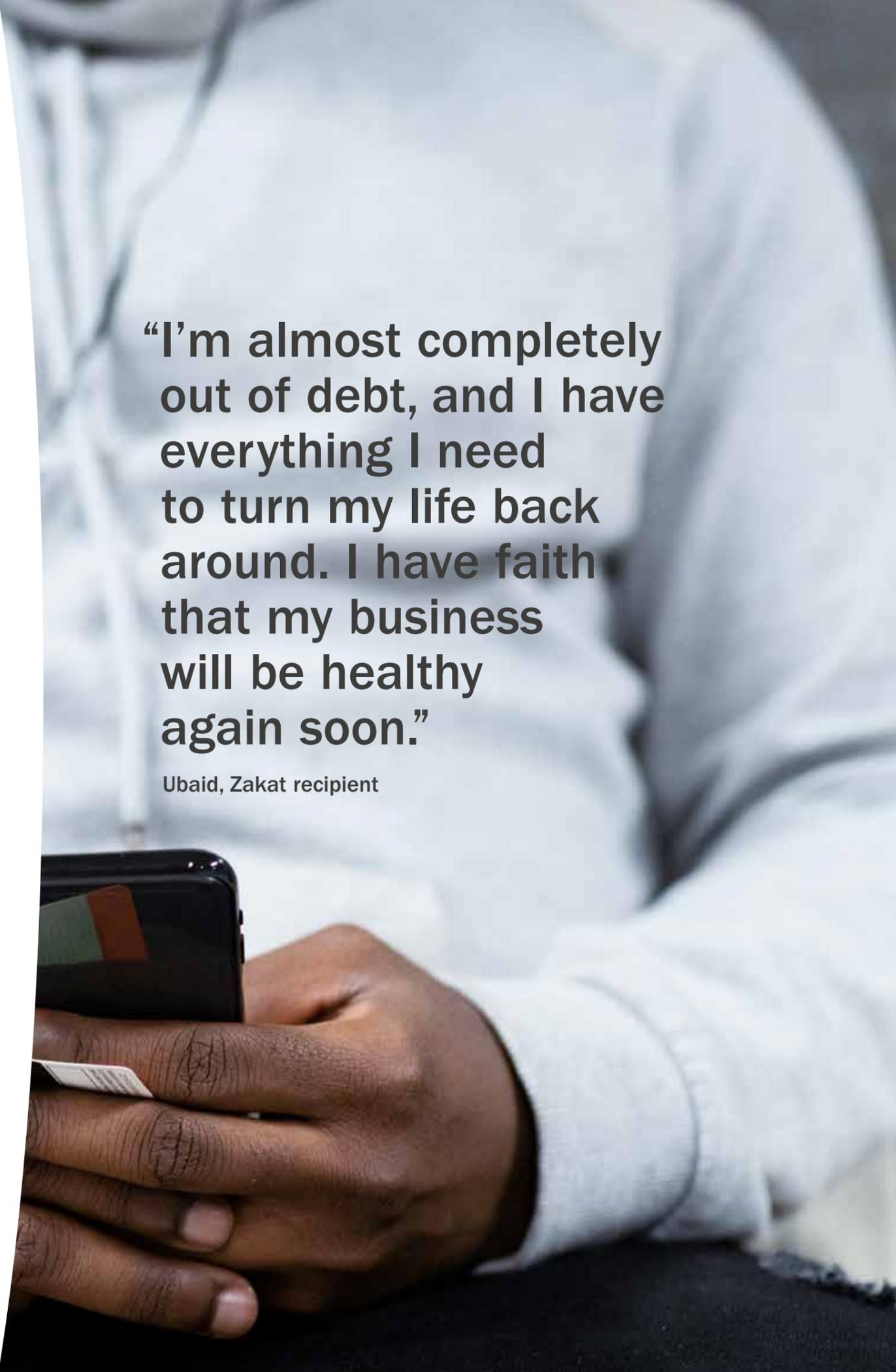
Sometimes, that means referring the individual to another organisation that is able to help them in a way more suited to their needs.

Support

NZF awards financial grants wherever we feel able to improve somebody's long-term situation.

This support is used for meeting the costs of basic essentials such as food, shelter, clothing and travel costs.

The grant also funds empowerment activities that help people in hardship reduce their expenses or increase their income. This support includes job training, legal costs and debt relief.



“I’m almost completely out of debt, and I have everything I need to turn my life back around. I have faith that my business will be healthy again soon.”

Ubaid, Zakat recipient

What impact does our support have?

Our Economic Empowerment Programme allows us to act as a safety net for Muslims in need, offering support in a number of ways:

- 1** Our cash grants and vouchers free people in need from their immediate financial issues.
- 2** We offer dedicated support so individuals feel more confident about their financial circumstances in the future.
- 3** Our programme helps individuals feel like they belong to a caring and supportive community.
- 4** Muslims we've supported often report direct and beneficial impact on their faith.

“Yes, they provided me with food and clothes, but they also gave me safety and security.”

Samia, Zakat recipient

Stability and safety

Samia called NZF after fleeing an abusive marriage and found herself homeless with a young child to take care of. She was given temporary accommodation, but with no food, furniture, or money, she had no idea how they'd survive.

How did NZF help?

NZF gave Samia support to cover immediate costs like food, winter clothes, and kitchenware until her Universal Credit came through. Our grant gave her safety and stability, so she could focus on rebuilding a new life for her and her son.

Leadership Investment Programme

We invest in emerging Muslim leaders and organisations that are working for Islam to flourish in the UK.

By funding these people and projects, and by publicly recognising the importance of their work, NZF is helping them make an even bigger impact.

Who do we help?

NZF helps individuals and organisations that seek to improve one or more of the following:

- Public perception towards Islam and Muslims in the UK
- Religious scholarship and religious literacy in the UK
- The representation of Muslims in the UK

How many people have directly benefited from this programme?

In 2018, NZF's leadership fund supported 30 individuals from across the UK.

And we gave grants to 6 vital projects and institutions that have made an impact on thousands of people here in the UK.

How do we help?

Our Leadership Investment Programme empowers individuals by providing access to grants and mentoring support. Grant funding allows the individual to access education or other opportunities they wouldn't otherwise be able to pursue.

How we helped

Development Stream

Through our Muslim Leaders Development Fund, in partnership with the Aziz Foundation, NZF invested in 30 emerging leaders.

The largest portion of grants were given to applicants who identified as having education and training-related needs within our Religious Scholarship & Literacy category.

60% of applications were from outside London. Islamic counselling and various Islamic studies undergraduate programmes were the most sought after choices of study. 40% (12) of awardees were female and 60% (18) were male.

Delivery Stream

We supported 6 vital projects and institutions across the country.

The flagship initiatives were:

- Cambridge Muslim College
- Muslim Council of Britain's Centre for Media Monitoring
- Muslim Council of Britain's Visit My Mosque
- Ramadan Tent Project
- Abu Hanifah Foundation
- Muslim chaplaincy services at three leading London universities



“With the support of NZF, Ramadan Tent Project has been able to reach out to more people across London and the UK and continue our outreach, growth & social impact.”

Omar Salha, Ramadan Tent Project

What impact does our support have?

Our Leadership Investment Programme offers different levels of support to Muslim individuals and institutions:

- 1** With our help, prominent leaders, organisations and scholars reach more people, more effectively.
- 2** We give individuals the opportunity to develop skills they can use for the benefit of the Muslim community in the UK.
- 3** By offering funding and support, NZF is publicly promoting the praiseworthy work of Muslim leaders and organisations.

“The funds provided for our two lecturer posts have supported the continued development of our undergraduate students.”

Zainab Kabba, Cambridge Muslim College

Leaders in education and training

NZF funds two lectureship posts for the unique BA programme in Islamic Studies at Cambridge Muslim College - an institution that provides emerging Muslim leaders with world-class education, research and training.

Students learn to apply traditional Islamic scholarship to the ideas and context of the modern world, so they can lead with knowledge and benefit Islam and Muslims in the UK.

Education and training to support emerging leaders

“NZF’s leadership fund has allowed me to access crucial education that I wouldn’t have been able to fund myself. I wanted access to knowledge and education that would allow me to have even more of an influential role in my community.

I’m dedicated to supporting Islamic education in the UK. The fund has given me the chance to focus on my studies without worrying about my day-to-day needs.”

Moynul, Zakat recipient

Our Zakat Policy

The institution of Zakat has a strategic and deliberate purpose, which is to enable commitment to God to thrive in society at both an individual and collective level. But this purpose can only be achieved when Zakat is given out efficiently and effectively.

Our research shows that in order for Zakat distribution to be effective, it must be unified, local, and balanced.

- 1. Unified:** We pool Zakat collection to enable coordinated and measured distribution.
- 2. Focused:** We distribute Zakat in the UK to focus on serving the society and culture we know best.
- 3. Balanced:** We distribute Zakat across the eight categories mentioned in the Qur'an (9:60) in the UK to serve the society we know best and for which we are most responsible.

How do we decide who to help?

NZF's policy is based on insights derived from the Qur'an and the Prophetic example, as well as from the classical jurists of the four mainstream schools of Islamic law, contemporary scholars, jurists and global bodies.

Our Research department is responsible for forming our Zakat policies, ensuring they're Islamically sound and relevant to our context and society.

Spearheaded by our in-house Zakat specialist, Mufti Faraz Adam, this department consults with local and global Zakat organisations, scholars, researchers and practitioners who make sure NZF's Zakat distribution in the UK is effective and legally valid.

When it comes to deciding who to support and how to support them, we refer to our policy framework for guidance, as it underpins our beliefs and our aspirations for Zakat in the UK.

Thank you for supporting NZF and joining thousands to give Zakat locally in the UK.

To fundraise, volunteer or campaign for NZF, please visit nzf.org.uk or call 03333 123 123



If you have questions,
feedback or ideas,
please do get
in touch.

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