

WINTER RELIEF PROGRAM

**Zakat Foundation of America
and
Social Cooperation Initiative (SCI)**



OVERVIEW

During January 2026, Social Cooperation Initiative (SCI), with the support of Zakat Foundation of America, implemented a targeted Winter Relief Program aimed at protecting the most vulnerable populations from severe cold conditions in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The intervention prioritized widowed women, transgender individuals, homeless persons, and women residing in protective shelters.

The program was designed not only to provide essential winter items but also to ensure that assistance was delivered in a manner that upheld dignity, safety, transparency, and inclusion. The intervention combined community-based identification, institutional coordination, and direct outreach to ensure timely and equitable distribution of winter relief items.

The Winter Relief Program successfully met its objectives by reaching highly vulnerable populations with timely, dignified, and transparent assistance. The collaboration with Zakat Foundation of America enabled SCI to respond effectively to seasonal humanitarian needs while reinforcing inclusive and accountable programming practices.



THE NEED

Winter conditions in Islamabad and Rawalpindi pose serious risks for populations lacking adequate shelter, income, or social protection. Prolonged exposure to cold significantly increases vulnerability to illness, insecurity, and psychosocial stress.

Key needs identified included:

- Lack of winter clothing and bedding among low-income households.
- High exposure to cold among homeless individuals living in open spaces.
- Marginalization and limited access to public assistance for transgender communities.
- Dependence of women in protective shelters on external support for basic seasonal needs.

Without timely intervention, these groups face heightened risks of hypothermia, respiratory illness, and reduced personal safety during winter nights.

Zakat Foundation of America kindly agreed to support Social Cooperation Initiative (SCI) and responded positively to the request by providing financial and programmatic assistance, enabling the timely, dignified, and effective delivery of winter relief support to the most vulnerable populations.



BENEFICIARY IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

SCI adopted **context-specific, ethical, and transparent identification methods** tailored to each beneficiary group. No biometric or intrusive verification was used.

Identification Principles

- Prioritization based on vulnerability and exposure to winter risks
- Community validation to avoid exclusion and duplication
- Respect for privacy, consent, and safeguarding standards
- Coordination with recognized institutions where applicable

Identification Methods by Category

Beneficiary Group	Identification Method
Widowed women	Community verification through local volunteers and female focal persons
Transgender individuals	Validation through trusted community representatives
Women in protection center	Official lists provided by center administration
Homeless individuals	Direct field identification through evening outreach visits



DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

Distributions were planned and executed with a strong focus on dignity, order, and accountability. Venues and timings were selected to ensure safety, accessibility, and minimal disruption.

Key Distribution Protocols

- Staggered distribution schedules to avoid overcrowding
- Gender- and inclusion-sensitive staff engagement
- Advance communication with beneficiaries where feasible
- No public labeling, announcements, or forced documentation
- Items pre-packed and pre-counted for accuracy

Distributions to homeless individuals were conducted during evening hours at their locations of residence to avoid displacement and ensure personal safety. A representative of Zakat Foundation of America participated in this activity to reinforce transparency and partnership.

Distribution Schedule Summary

Date	Location	Beneficiary Group	Number Reached
10 Jan 2026	Jinnah Garden, Islamabad	Widowed women	50
10 Jan 2026	Islamabad	Transgender community	20
13 Jan 2026	Women Protection Center (H-8)	Women residents	20
13 Jan 2026	Islamabad & Rawalpindi	Homeless individuals	20



RELIEF ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

Relief packages were adapted to the specific needs of each group while maintaining consistency and fairness.

Items Included:

- Quilts and blankets
- Warm shawls
- Socks and gloves
- Caps and winter hats
- Warm hoodies (where appropriate)

Item quantities were recorded and reconciled against beneficiary lists during each distribution.



REACH AND COVERAGE



50

WIDOWS

20

TRANSGENDER
INDIVIDUALS

20

HOMELESS
INDIVIDUALS

20

WOMEN IN
PROTECTION
CENTERS

110

TOTAL
INDIVIDUALS AND
FAMILIES
SUPPORTED





IMPACT



IMMEDIATE RESULTS

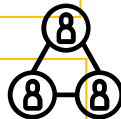


- Improved protection from cold exposure during peak winter nights
- Reduced anxiety among beneficiaries regarding winter survival
- Strengthened trust between SCI and marginalized communities

PROGRAM VALUE

- Beyond material support, the intervention reinforced SCI's commitment to humanitarian principles, social inclusion, and accountable service delivery.

QUALITATIVE IMPACT



- Widowed women reported increased sense of safety and care
- Transgender beneficiaries highlighted respectful treatment and inclusion
- Homeless individuals received assistance without displacement or stigma
- Institutional coordination reinforced SCI's credibility with public protection services

QUANTITATIVE IMPACT



110

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES SUPPORTED

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY



- Attendance and distribution logs maintained for all activities
- Item counts verified before and after distribution
- Supervisory oversight by senior SCI staff
- Donor representation during selected distributions
- Informal beneficiary feedback collected to inform future interventions







مقامی ایجنسیوں کی مدد سے شہر کے مختلف حصوں میں سردیوں کی طرح سے سردیوں کے موسم کے دوران کمزور اور بیمار افراد کو طبی اور مالی مدد فراہم کی جائے گی۔

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Winter relief packages distributed to vulnerable communities in Islamabad

Special Desk

Last updated January 15, 2024 10:30 am

(ISLAMABAD) The Social Cooperation Initiative, in collaboration with the Zakat Foundation of America, distributed winter relief packages among deserving families and individuals in Islamabad to help them cope with chilly and wet weather.

The initiative was launched with the aim of ensuring that disadvantaged families and individuals are not left without support during harsh winter nights and are provided with a sense of security and basic necessities.



As part of the campaign, winter protection equipment was provided to 20 women residents of the Social Protection Women's Center (SPWC) in Islamabad. In addition, 20 members of the transgender community, a segment often excluded from social support, received winter relief packages.

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Winter Relief Packages Distributed Among Vulnerable Families in Islamabad

Social Cooperation Initiative, Zakat Foundation Provide Winter Aid to Needy

Special Desk

ISLAMABAD

With a determination not to leave deserving and disadvantaged families and individuals alone in the severe cold of Islamabad, the "Social Cooperation Initiative" in collaboration with the "Zakat Foundation of America" distributed "Winter Relief Packages" among poor families and needy individuals. The aim of this campaign is to protect poor families and needy individuals from the harshness of the weather and provide them with a sense of security. The following activities were organized under the campaign: 20 women residents of the Social Protection Women's Center (SPWC) were distributed blankets and quilts. The relief packages included warm slacks, blankets, socks, gloves, hats, and warm hoodies for adults and children. In this manner, the leadership of the "Social Cooperation Initiative" provided the "Zakat Foundation of America" with the "Winter Relief Packages" to help them cope with the severe weather. 20 members of the transgender community, often among the most neglected segments of society, received winter relief packages including warm slacks, blankets, socks, gloves, caps, and hoodies for both adults and children. Speaking on the occasion, the leadership of the "Social Cooperation Initiative" expressed gratitude to the Zakat Foundation of America for its support. "Winter is an extremely challenging time for disadvantaged families and needy individuals. Our mission is to ensure that no deserving family or individual is left without support during this harsh winter season. We are proud to be part of this initiative and to provide winter relief packages to those in need. We will continue to work towards ensuring that no one is left behind during the winter season."

Islamabad Today

SATURDAY JANUARY 17, 2026

Winter Relief Drive Brings Warmth and Hope to Vulnerable Families in Islamabad

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Determined to ensure that no deserving family or individual is left to face Islamabad's harsh winter alone, the Social Cooperation Initiative, in collaboration with the Zakat Foundation of America, organized a Winter Relief Drive to support underprivileged communities across the city. The initiative aimed to protect vulnerable families and marginalized individuals from extreme cold while restoring a sense of security and dignity during the winter season. Under this campaign, relief activities were carried out in multiple areas. 50 widowed women residing in Jinnah Garden were provided with winter protection items to help them cope with the severe weather. 20 members of the transgender community, often among the most neglected segments of society, received winter relief packages including warm slacks, blankets, socks, gloves, caps, and hoodies for both adults and children. Speaking on the occasion, the leadership of the Social Cooperation Initiative expressed gratitude to the Zakat Foundation of America for its support. "Winter is an extremely challenging time for disadvantaged families and needy individuals. Our mission is to ensure that no deserving family or individual is left without support during this harsh winter season. We are proud to be part of this initiative and to provide winter relief packages to those in need. We will continue to work towards ensuring that no one is left behind during the winter season."



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News Network Pakistan

January 15 at 8:25 AM

Providing a sense of security to deserving families in Islamabad during cold nights

<https://nnpakistan.com/providing-a-sense-of-security-to-/>



"Social Cooperation Initiative" in collaboration with the "Zakat Foundation of America" distributed "Winter Relief Packages"



THANK YOU

For your ongoing support and being part of this journey to
create an equal and inclusive society where all people can fully
exercise their rights with dignity and respect



scipk.org | info@scipk.org