



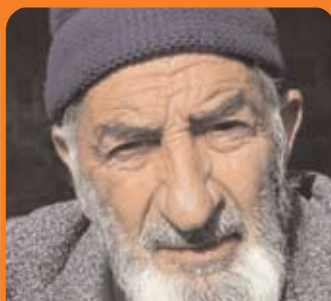
WORLD CONGRESS
OF MUSLIM PHILANTHROPISTS



The Road Ahead >

A Strategic Framework to Strengthen Muslim Philanthropy

2008



The World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP) is an initiative which provides knowledge, resources and networking opportunities to people who have the will to make a difference. WCMP works in partnership with the global community of donors and grant-making institutions to mobilize financial and human resources to advance the common good. Today, there are an estimated 1.6 billion Muslims, 24% of the world's population, a potentially enormous resource base for institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to advance human needs.

Muslim philanthropy is at a crossroad, building new models of giving while simultaneously refining old methods embedded in a vibrant Islamic tradition. Although underlying tensions may surround the role and influence of foreign philanthropy, the potential of foundations to build a better tomorrow deserves increased understanding and dialogue. The necessity to effectively harness resources in order to make the greatest impact is compelling. Accordingly, WCMP developed a strategic framework to respond to this unprecedented opportunity. In pursuit of this agenda, WCMP envisions working in collaboration with the vast array of individuals and institutions that seek to improve the Muslim world and the broader global community. WCMP, therefore will work toward building and promoting these strategies in the field, accepting its share of responsibility for completion of this work, as well as encouraging and supporting others that can contribute to this endeavor.

“ SERVICE TO OTHERS IS THE RENT YOU PAY FOR YOUR ROOM HERE ON EARTH.”

— MUHAMMAD ALI



Our PHILOSOPHY >

Driven by the compassion that is intrinsic in Islamic values, the world wide community of Muslims should work together in reaching out to the needy, irrespective of their race or religious beliefs.

Annual International Conference

Each year, WCMP will bring together Muslim philanthropists, government representatives, researchers, and leaders of non-governmental organizations from across the world to discuss significant issues and trends in the field of philanthropy and social justice. This annual conference will serve as a forum through which innovative policies and practices are shared and new, promising philanthropic initiatives encouraged. The latest research and practical tools designed to enhance philanthropic performance and impact will be featured throughout the event. The conference will be held in a different country each year in order to expand knowledge and learning across borders. In addition, time for networking to foster understanding, outreach, and new relationships will be provided. The overall impact of these conferences will be a more informed and professional workforce in the field; increased collaboration across institutions and individuals; and new philanthropic efforts that improve and strengthen the Muslim and global community.

Giving Networks

According to recent research, there is heightened interest in the development of funds that are created by groups of individuals or institutions for the purpose of “pooling” resources and targeting them toward a common interest and purpose such as education or health. These pooled funds, or giving networks, lead to greater leverage of an individual’s resources, with a greater impact on a particular issue or concern. WCMP believes “pooling” is a creative and promising trend, and would like to expand a broader development of such funds. These newly created networks have the advantage of sharing risks commonly found in grantmaking activities, as well as the learning that stems from this work; and they will contribute to the resolution of seemingly intractable societal issues and problems. These networks may be country specific as well as internationally constructed, enabling them to conduct their giving locally, regionally, or globally.

Our MISSION >

We aspire to bring together philanthropists for the exchange of ideas and proven practices, and institute an environment of enduring engagement, wherein to use their wealth and influence strategically for the betterment of the world.

Our aim is to create a forum where muslim donors from diverse backgrounds can interact, collaborate, and subsequently become a leading component of the global community of humanitarians.

“IT IS PART OF MY FAITH AS A MUSLIM TO TRY TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM POVERTY OR ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL INJUSTICE.”

— YUSUF ISLAM



Consulting and Operational Assistance

The need for high quality technical assistance and consultant services that can help Muslim foundations and high net worth individuals be more strategic in distributing their charitable resources for the betterment of society is of utmost importance. Therefore, WCMP envisions the creation of a culturally diverse pool of talented consultants that are able to deliver on this need, both locally and globally, and to deliver services to both grantmaking foundations and individuals dedicated to pursuing social justice concerns. For example, the consultant team will assist foundations to identify potential grantees that are compatible with their mission and goals; this team will help target grant resources in an efficient and effective manner. In addition, the team will inform high net worth individuals about the value of philanthropic institutions and assist them in the creation of new foundations and funding programs. Finally, the team will help NGOs with training and technical assistance needs in the areas of governance, management, operations, fundraising and programming. More than one team may be required to serve the vast geographical region and the varied needs that exist. The overall goal of the consultants is to support both foundations and NGOs in their immediate and long-term development to become high-performance and high-impact organizations.

Research and Analysis

Every industry requires in-depth research and analysis to fuel new ideas, eliminate obsolete practices, and foster new directions. Accordingly, there have been increased efforts to produce research information on the current practice of philanthropy in the Muslim world; however, the dearth of informative material remains unacceptably low. WCMP will address this need by conducting research on critical questions and issues in the field. This research agen-

da will include: examination of public policies affecting Muslim philanthropic practices; program evaluations and assessments to determine the most effective strategies of philanthropic engagement; studies to compare Muslim and mainstream grantmaking practices; and reports on Muslim philanthropic contributions to the broader global community. All research findings will be broadly disseminated through the media and internet, as well as at conferences and university programs. The findings will be published in various languages. It is essential to clarify grantmaking practices in order to create a more conducive public policy environment for philanthropic activity.

Quarterly Journal

WCMP will publish a quarterly journal to serve as an information and educational resource to those interested in building the capacity of Muslim philanthropy. While the history and tradition of Muslim philanthropy has existed for centuries, the literature on current trends and practice is limited. Documentation and reports on important developments in the field is essential. “*Muslim Philanthropy*” will be the first journal of its kind and will contain a variety of important features including: articles on critical issues; findings from the latest research; timely information on upcoming events; foundation grant opportunities and programs; career development opportunities in philanthropy including educational programs, fellowships and internship programs; and other new philanthropic initiatives serving the Muslim world. The journal will be distributed across the globe and will increase awareness of the opportunities and challenges associated with Muslim philanthropy. Hopefully, the journal will also heighten the interest of other Muslim and non-Muslim entities to join efforts to enhance the field.



“...YOU DON'T HAVE TO RELY ON DONOR MONEY ALL THE TIME. YOU CAN DO IT ON YOUR OWN.”

— PROFESSOR MUHAMMAD YUNUS

Academy of Philanthropy

A new Academy will provide educational services that promote the professional development of people engaged in Muslim philanthropic efforts. These services will include formal classroom instruction, workshops, internships and distance learning opportunities. The services will be delivered by experts who possess the knowledge and expertise to elevate the professional competence of both students and professionals who want to acquire new skills and advance their effectiveness in the field. The educational content will incorporate the best of both traditional and contemporary Muslim philanthropic practices, including the intersection between faith and social responsibility. The Academy's offices will be strategically located in both the East and West in order to effectively connect learning resources across the world. The general outcome of the Academy's work will be the development and support of current and future generations of leadership in this arena.

Worldwide Charity Clearinghouse

A worldwide charity clearinghouse, *SecureGiving*, will inform philanthropies across the world about the operation, structure, and standing of charities that participate in this program. The growth and development of the civil society sector in the Muslim world has led to new challenges, as well as new opportunities. Nongovernmental organizations are proliferating, and both grant-making foundations and individuals interested in providing resources to support their work are faced with myriad choices for giving. While countries have adopted rules and regulations for governing the development and operations of NGOs, the regulations are not uniform or consistently applied. In addition, recent international conflicts have had a chilling effect on giving to Muslim institutions because of a concern over terrorism. Consequently, philanthropies are charged with the onerous task of ensuring that NGOs receiving their support are not linked to terrorism in any way. Philanthropies are also charged with the responsibility to ensure that their grants and support go to worthy, well managed, and effective organizations that serve a public purpose. *SecureGiving* will be a secure and user-friendly portal based on meaningful standards that are accepted and adopted by NGOs on a voluntary basis. With this clearinghouse, WCMP intends to facilitate secure, sustained, and strategic giving.



Our VISION >

The World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists envisions a peaceful, equitable, and sustainable world, generously endowed by ethical, accountable, effective and inclusive philanthropy.

“OUR REGION’S SUCCESS DEPENDS ON CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO KNOWLEDGE AND ON PROVIDING TOMORROW’S LEADERS WITH THE MOTIVATION TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE. IT IS OUR DUTY TO MAKE THEM GREAT ASSETS TO THEMSELVES, THEIR NATION AND TO THE WORLD.”

— MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP)

P.O.Box 3654

Oakbrook, Illinois 60522, USA

630.889.9513 *phone*

630.889.9511 *facsimile*

www.thewcmp.org

info@thewcmp.org

Prepared By: Tariq Cheema, Louis Delgado, Angela Massey

“Benevolence Beyond Social Divides”

