

# STORIES TO INSPIRE

## MUSLIM AID WATER PROJECTS



Working with local organisations, Muslim Aid has established projects to dig wells, supply safe water, install hand pumps and build latrines. The scheme not only saves lives in some of the world's poorest countries, but aims to empower communities to come together to solve common problems in a sustainable way.

The projects cover a variety of countries including Somalia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sudan and Sri Lanka.

### Khadija's story

In Somalia, Khadija and her villagers used to walk miles to the nearest well to gather water for her family and livestock. Tired, thirsty and with the threat of tribal violence over such a scarce resource, Khadija struggled to make the journey so essential for her family's survival. In 2007, Muslim Aid dug 30 shallow wells in the Dinsor and Baidoa area of the Bay region, southwest Somalia.

"Before this well was dug, we travelled for a whole day to reach a well which was very difficult. We walked all the time, stopping for only an hour's rest before we had to start our journey again. Clan confrontations are very common, especially over water, but now that is minimised; we do not have to cross territories owned by other tribes or clans who might not be happy when we bring our herds for water. I am happy I do not have to travel miles to give water to my cows and fetch water for my family".

The wells provided Khadija and her family with clean drinking water, safe from diseases and available in an area that experienced some of the harshest droughts in history. Mr. Guudle, head of Khadija's community, welcomed the well project. "Before the wells, we had two problems. The first was the danger from crocodiles that harmed our wives and children when they tried to fetch water from the river – I can remember more than 15 incidents of such attacks. Secondly, because the river water was not always clean, our people suffered diseases and it was difficult to get medicine. Now there is a well here, my people are safe from harm and have fewer illnesses caused by dirty water".

### Can YOU imagine a life without water?



- In 2002, 1.1 billion people were without access to safe drinking water.\*
- By 2025, around two thirds of the world's population will live in areas facing serious water problems.\*\*
- Women and children can spend up to three-quarters of their day walking to collect water.

\*WHO 2004

\*\*UN 1997

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## HOW YOU COULD USE THIS MATERIAL



1. You could just use a quote or tell the basic story of the impact local wells had upon Khadija and her community in a talk, or:
2. You could involve a number of people in presenting this story to an audience.

For this you would need:

- A narrator, who could introduce :
- Khadija, and she could introduce:
- Mr Guudle, head of Khadija's community.
- An interviewer to ask the questions.
- Round off with a discussion of the importance of water. What steps could you take to conserve and avoid wasting water?

