

The Children's Eco Village



REACHING PEOPLE IN NEED



Islamic Help

Islamic Help is a registered charity and international NGO established in 2003 by a group of young people determined to make a difference to the lives of those afflicted by poverty and suffering.

Responding to increasing demands, our efforts over the years have expanded from emergency relief in disaster zones to the provision of sustainability and livelihood programmes, education, orphan care, health, environmental projects and a variety of support to disadvantaged communities across the world.

We have maintained the unique grassroots and community-led ethos that was the catalyst for the inception of Islamic Help, allowing us to engage with communities around the world so as to make a difference to the lives of those in

need. The charity remains dependent on its dedicated and active volunteers who provide the grassroots input into its work.

That ethos and the maxim of 'Reaching People in Need' is characterised by our involvement with young people and the ideal to inspire, motivate and mobilise them when necessary.

Islamic Help is working in more than 20 countries and has offices worldwide including Birmingham and London in the UK, France, Australia, Tanzania, Sudan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Palestine and Yemen.

Islamic Help Tanzania

Islamic Help has been working in Tanzania since 2009, striving for the sustainable development of communities through various projects covering orphan care, water supply and sanitation, environmental sustainability, livelihood and economic empowerment, education,

food security and emergency relief. Islamic Help Tanzania's life-changing initiatives not only help beneficiaries but contribute towards Tanzania's national plan of action for the most vulnerable children and it's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



REACHING PEOPLE IN NEED

The Children's Eco Village

To go through childhood without the protection and care of a parent or guardian is one of the most unimaginable and traumatic experiences a child can be subjected to. There are 53 million children living without parents in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In Tanzania, there are 3.1 million orphans. Of these, 1.2 million have been orphaned by Aids (source: Unicef 2012). Orphan children are often exposed, and vulnerable, to exploitation and left with no option but to fend for themselves or be dependent on the generosity of sponsors.

The Children's Eco Village is located in the Mkurunga district, just outside the capital Dares Salaam and near the small town of Kisemvule. It is set in a green, clean, productive, pleasant and self-sustaining environment designed to nurture the physical, mental, social and spiritual growth of vulnerable orphans. It will be home (when complete) to 160 orphans by providing care, love and affection through skilled and professional staff who will act as 'mothers' and care-givers to the children.



The Children's Eco Village ultimately aims to:

- **Facilitate the children's growth in an empathic family setting that they need**
- **Provide a secure base for their physical, psychological and emotional growth**
- **Ensure their attendance at elementary school and support them to excel to higher standards**
- **Help the children acquire economic survival skills necessary for a productive life as an adult**
- **Provide holistic community-based care that supports them into becoming socially integrated adults in society.**

The Village is surrounded by a lush, green landscape with serene climatic conditions. Taking advantage of the natural environment, it creates a harmonious, eco-friendly environment, a combination of ample greenery and a modern outlook. To promote the ideal of living in harmony with nature, the buildings and structures of the children's homes are designed for low energy consumption while ensuring functional and productive use of space. Adoption of green energy technologies, waste management, recycling, permaculture and biogas ensure a clean, green and productive environment.

Additionally, in order to meet the economic challenges of sustaining the Village, a model has been adopted resulting in every project contributing towards generating income.


There are over 3 million orphans in Tanzania, 1.2 million of these as a result of Aids



Children's Homes

Whereas orphanages can often mean cramped and restricted conditions which hinder a child's development, the children's homes aim to create a homely environment for 160 orphans. They will live with 'mothers' (one per home) where they will enjoy a sense of belonging, care, love and affection. As care-professionals, these guardians will recognise and respect the orphans' backgrounds and cultural roots while nurturing each child's development. The 'mothers' not only possess natural motherly instincts but they and their children will grow over time – day-by-day, touch-by-touch, with each tear, kiss and memory their lives will weave together into a tapestry of a new family.

Islamic Help will develop 16 children's homes in clusters of four, each aiming to accommodate 10 children and one 'mother'. Each home will have four bedrooms, a living room, a bathroom, and a kitchen which have been designed by experts to cater for the orphan children's requirements. The building and structures are designed to be highly energy efficient and the adoption of green energy technologies including waste management, recycling and biogas will ensure a clean, green and productive environment.



Lancashire House

Each home consists of:

- 10 Children
- 1 Mother
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Dining Area
- 4 Bedrooms
- Bathroom/toilets



Profiles



Arafah Mushangama
Children's Eco Village Mother

Arafah Mushangama is a mother at the Children's Eco Village; she is humble and friendly in character and has an educational background in guidance and teaching methodology. She cares for the first 10 children at the village providing the love, security and stability every child requires. She is very happy to serve the children as a mother and teaches them life skills.

"It is a privilege to be in an eco-friendly environment like Kisemvule raising these beautiful children. I support the children mentally, physically and psychologically and I have faith that they will secure futures to become productive global citizens."



Tiba Rashid
9 Years Old,
Children's Eco Village Orphan

Tiba Rashid is among the first 10 children living at the Children's Eco Village. She lost both of her parents in 2005 to HIV/AIDS when she was just a few months old. Following the deaths of her parents, Tiba was placed in custody of her ageing grandmother who likewise sadly passed away after 6 years. The next couple of years, Tiba had an unsettled upbringing, moving into different homes before becoming part of the Children's Eco Village family.

"I was confused to where I was being taken and how life would be. When I saw the wonderful house, bed, food and settings in the Children's Eco Village I couldn't believe it. I like the soft mattresses, my room and caring environment the most. I enjoy roaming around nice flowers, trees and pets with my friends. We always eagerly wait for Sundays, so we can play hide and seek in the Village. I can't imagine a better life than this and I want to stay here always."



Ibrahim Siddiq
Permaculture Manager

Ibrahim Siddiq developed a passion and desire to explore agricultural and environmental issues following a permaculture training programme provided by Islamic Help. He believes Islamic principles governing agriculture offer one of the best solutions for attaining food security and poverty alleviation. He is now the Permaculture Manager at the village overseeing all agricultural, livestock and poultry projects.

"Charity work is like rising up in an elevator and you never want it to stop. It's that desire that got me to charity work from my previous teaching career. With the focus on my permaculture activities in the Children's Eco Village, I have been able to create awareness of the importance of eco-farming which creates a bond between man and his/her surroundings and a solution towards sustainable farming. Through model farming activities and training people in the eco-village, the surrounding villagers are now conscious on the productivity of permaculture. That is useful knowledge, a good act and it is charity."



Environmental Conservation

The need to care for the environment is not a modern phenomenon. It permeates through the Qur'an and Hadith, and Islam warns us not to gorge and waste but to care for and enrich our planet. Environmental conservation is an important aspect of reducing the cycle of poverty.

The increasing demand for energy is making it difficult to avoid climate change which is having a devastating impact on nature and the environment both locally and globally. It is however the rural communities in developing nations that suffer the majority of the consequences. Natural elements such as trees, fauna, landscape, streams and animals are a lifeline for communities. They provide resources such as water, food, material, medicine, employment and much more. The more the environment is destroyed, the more this leads to a lack of resources which in turn leads to poverty.

One of Islamic Help's flagship initiatives is Farm Islam, a faith-based approach to using environmental sustainability to tackle the root causes of poverty. Whilst the training aspect is religious-based, the teaching of farming practices is universal. These methods are inclusive and used in partnership with other faiths and communities to ensure that a greater result is achieved.

Various innovative methods of protecting the environment are being trialled at the Children's Eco Village, and upon completion and satisfactory results they will be rolled out to other communities so that they can build the capacity to preserve their own way of life.



Water Conservation

The village requires a minimum of 5000ltr of water per day for drinking and washing (at full capacity), plus an additional 5000ltrs for livestock, farming and gardening purposes. This need should not burden the water supply of surrounding villages, so it is important that the Village has in place various methods that preserves its water sources.

Islamic Help has built 2 solar-powered boreholes and a 6-meter overhead tank with solar powered submersible pumps that provide water for the entire Village. All staff have been trained on how to use a minimum amount of water in their everyday lives and a number of initiatives have taken place which preserve water.

Hima & Harim

These are protected areas (similar to green belt or national forest) in which the physical environment is protected by law. The Village has taken ownership and safeguarded a certain area of land which is cannot be touched by man, so allowing trees and animals to create their own eco-systems. Allowing nature to take its course unhindered for the past two years is bearing fruits. The Village is now seeing the formation of a natural spring running through it as the trees that have been protected have allowed it to preserve water underground.

Trees for Change

Islamic Help Tanzania has launched a major tree planting campaign, Tree for Change, and started planting trees in and around the Children's Eco Village to conserve the environment, as well as making the village home to Islamic Help's independent tree nursery.

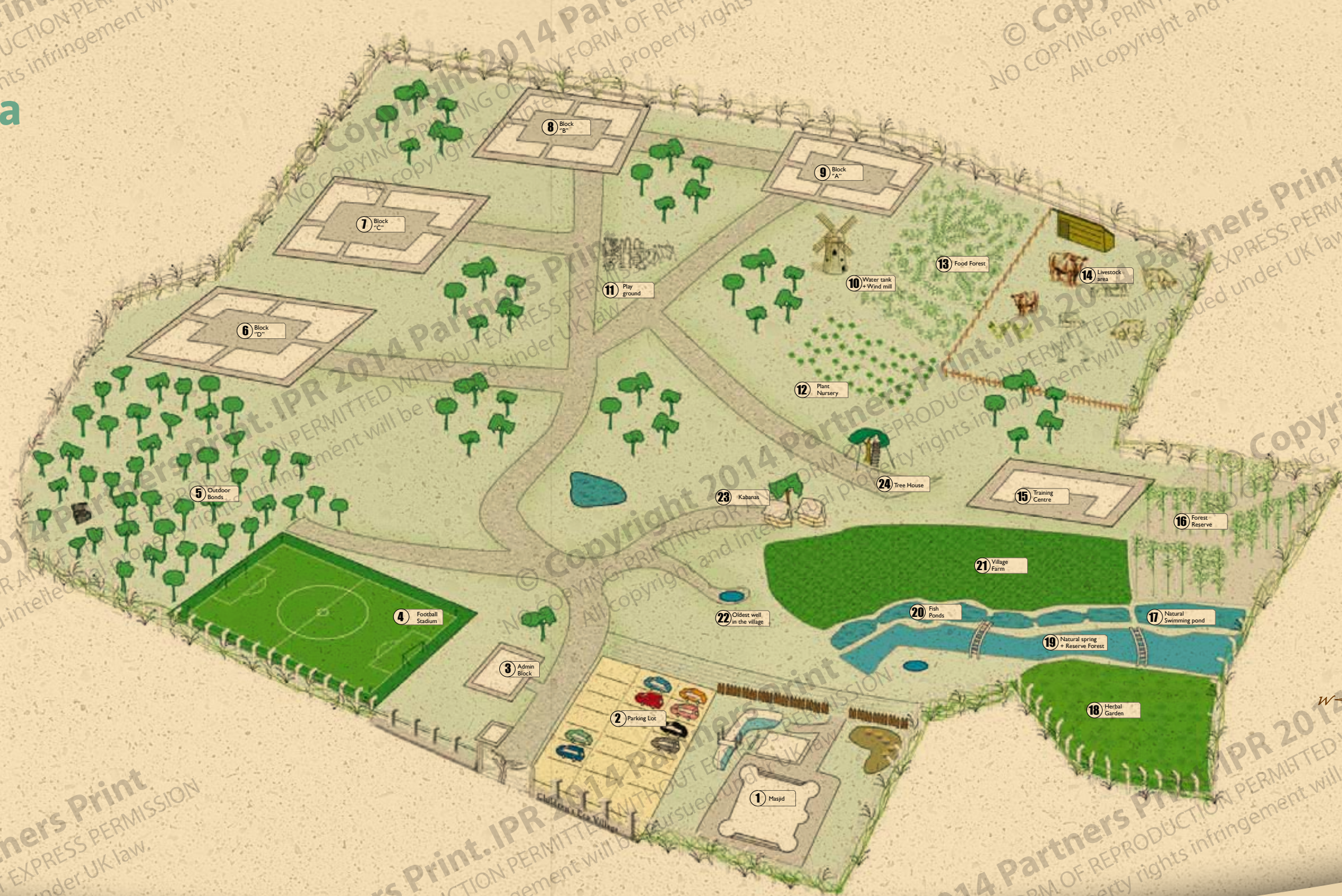
The project is now fully functional. More than 68,000 trees of different species (mostly fruit) have been raised within the Village. In addition, over 30,000 trees have been planted in the Village and neighbouring villages through Islamic Help's Trees for Change project.



Kisemvule Mkuranga Dar es salaam Tanzania

Further information

- The Village is eco friendly
- 40 km away from Dar es Salaam
- Surrounded by a lush green landscape
- Organic Permaculture Farm
- The land Area is approximately 30 acres
- Restaurant and Conference centre
- Training centre for the Region
- Outbound games Such as paint ball wars , treasure hunt e.t.c
- And more surprises to come



Eco-Friendly Farming

The Village operates with the vision of giving back more energy and materials to the community than is consumed, through training locals to adopt permaculture practices, poultry farming and livestock rearing. The farm will ultimately improve the local economy by providing jobs, generating income and improving food security within the Village.

Permaculture Farming

Following extensive research, Islamic Help implemented permaculture farming within the overall plans of the Village. It offers ecological principles of farming processes instead of man-made and potentially destructive methods that could harm the Earth. In the current climate, where the population is rapidly increasing and natural resources are becoming scarce, the Village will be able to provide sustainable living and ecological food production.

The farm is now successfully delivering harvests including tomatoes, eggplants, okra, mchicha (amaranths), red chilli, cabbage and more.



Livestock and Poultry

Livestock and poultry farms aim to increase the children's nutritional intake, assist the growth of vegetables through the use of manure, and income generation through the sale of livestock, poultry, organic eggs and milk.

The Village at present has livestock and poultry sheds that hold cows, ducks, goats, chicken, chicks and beehives. Plans are underway to expand the farm to raise geese, turkeys, swans, pigeons, guinea fowls and rabbits.



The farm will improve food security, provide jobs and generate income



The farm will be a hub for quality food production in the area



Duck & Fish Ponds

The Village's 12 ponds are used to capture water (rainwater, kitchen and shower water) that would otherwise be wasted, through swales as used in permaculture designs. The ponds are home to a variety of fish and offer a pleasant and cool environment for poultry reared on the farm.



Fencing

Fencing is mandatory under Tanzanian law for orphan-related institutions. As a result, rather than constructing a dull single barrier, the Village's fence is built to be multi-functional. It provides a platform for planting herbal shrubs, fruit trees and a trellis creating a vertical gardening system of beans, peas, cucumbers, tomatoes and morning glories.



Farm House

The Farm House is a project that was initiated as a twin-purpose programme. The facility will operate as an income generation project through its use as a retreat location for locals and volunteers and a learning centre for practical farming



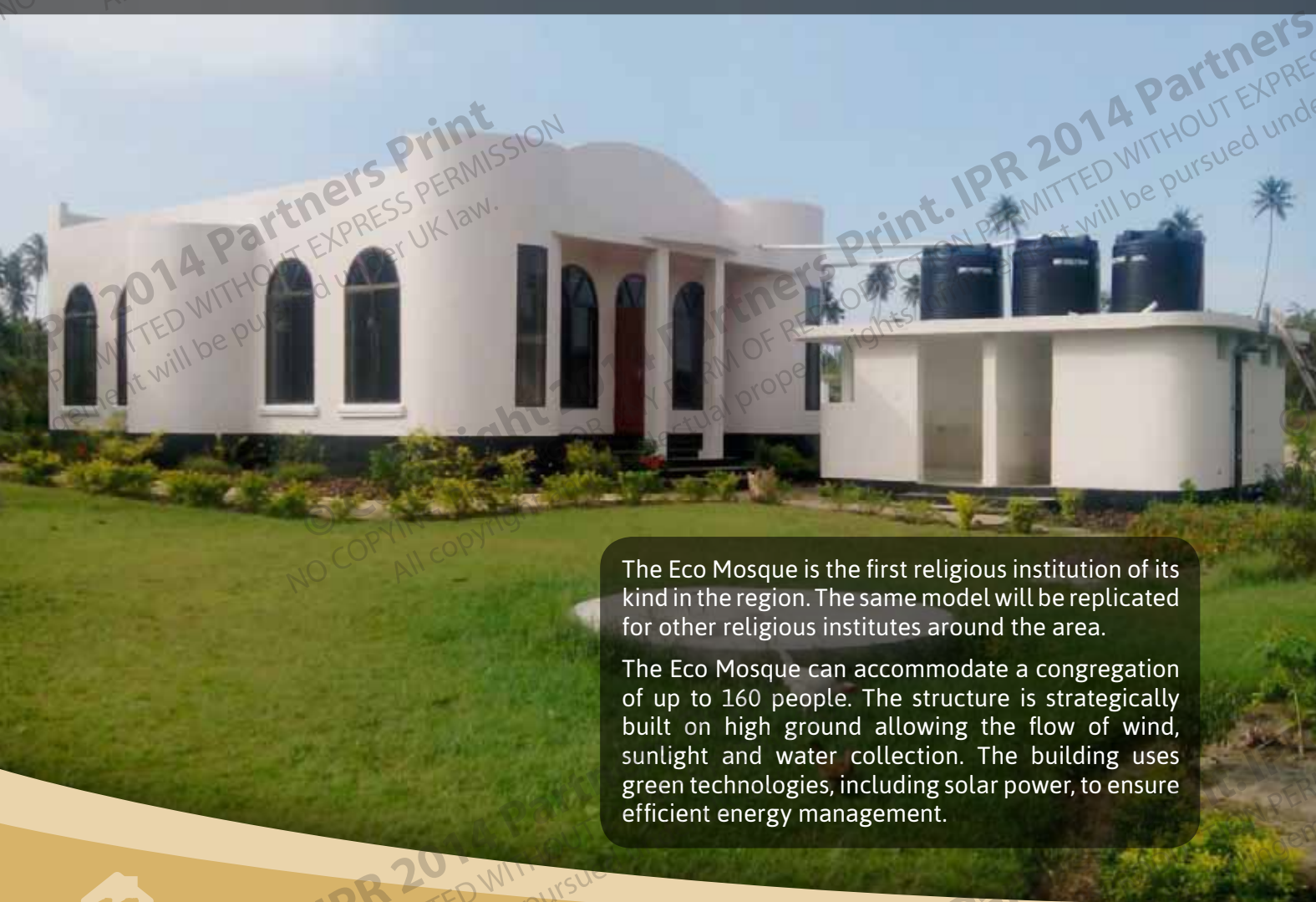
Infrastructure

A good and reliable transport network remains vital to the success of any programme which aims to construct communities. With this in mind, Islamic Help aims to develop the infrastructure including sewage systems, roads and street lights into and within the Village.



Eco Mosque

The purpose of the Eco Mosque, part of the Children's Eco Village complex, is to provide religious services, educational, social, cultural and similar activities to the community and to serve as a resource for information and cultural co-operation. The Eco Mosque provides an environmentally friendly backbone to the community through sharing its eco-ethos and incorporating the environment with religion.



The Eco Mosque is the first religious institution of its kind in the region. The same model will be replicated for other religious institutes around the area.

The Eco Mosque can accommodate a congregation of up to 160 people. The structure is strategically built on high ground allowing the flow of wind, sunlight and water collection. The building uses green technologies, including solar power, to ensure efficient energy management.



Ramadhan Makuka Eco Mosque Imam

Ramadhan Makuka is the Imam (spiritual leader) of the Children's Eco Village. He is jovial and friendly in character. He participates in the village's advisory board and the external community. He leads five congregational prayers at the village's mosque and closely works with management to ensure the moral upbringing of the village workers and children.

"It's an honour to be part of Islamic Help's team as a spiritual leader (Imam) at the Children's Eco Village. I have learnt so much about caring for the environment ever since I joined Islamic Help. Before joining Islamic Help, I never knew about permaculture. But being in the village has enabled me to understand about permaculture through training programmes and courses and now, I am teaching others regarding the importance of being protectors of the environment"

The main features of the Eco Mosque are:

- **Reduces Noise Pollution**
The architects have created a natural echo in the prayer hall, eliminating the need for a microphone
- **Natural Ventilation**
The large windows and ventilation allow enough light and air to circulate through the mosque, reducing the need for electrical fans
- **Solar Energy**
Used for lights, fans and motors for water pumps if required
- **Rainwater harvesting**
There are three water collection tanks where the water will be used for ablution before prayer
- **Re-Use of Ablution Water**
The waste water from the mosque is taken directly to the gardens and is re-used to irrigate a fruit and vegetable garden



Pending Features

Training Centre

Islamic Help is developing a training centre to accommodate up to 100 people and includes residential facilities and a restaurant. Similar to other income generation projects, the training centre is multi-purpose – it will provide local communities with a facility for social, cultural, educational and recreational training.

Admin Block

The admin block will ensure a smooth development and organic growth of the Village. A Village Director will be appointed to oversee the entire operation. He/she will guide and nurture the development of bringing a family child-care model to life.

Landscaping

Further landscaping will be carried out as required to ensure the environment retains and enhances the characteristics that have made it such a special location for the development of the Children's Eco Village.

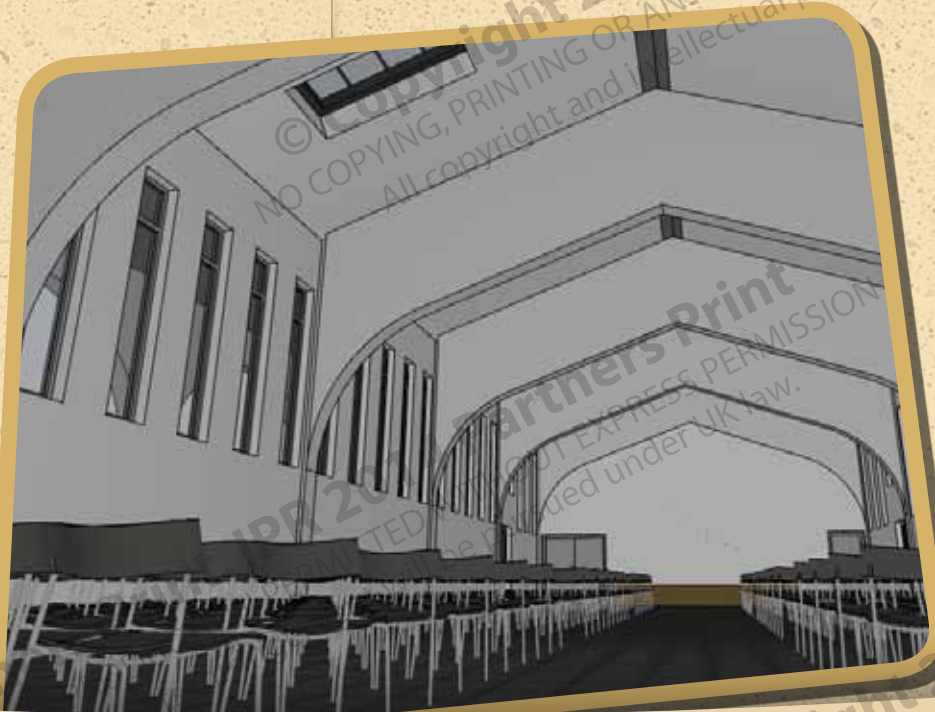
Sports and Recreational Facilities

Sports Complex

Sports development is instrumental in educating and empowering children and youth to overcome the harmful effects of psychological distress or trauma, poverty, conflict and disease. Implementing a sports facility in the Village will provide capacity for the children to develop through sports participation.

Adventure Playground

Adventure playgrounds will boost the children's physical activity. Experts advise that children should have fun while exercising.



Testimonials



"The Children's Eco Village manifests two aspects of the values embodied in Islamic Law. The first is the care and concern shown to orphans and the second, the protection of the environment. Islamic Help, the Birmingham based aid agency, has uniquely integrated the realisation of these two values into its pioneering project in Tanzania. Apart from providing housing for one hundred and sixty orphans in a family centred atmosphere in its thirty acre site but this project will incorporate a pilot scheme involving the introduction of hema and harim systems. These systems are shariah based and lay down principles for the management of land and water resources respectively.

As food self sufficiency is one of the primary objectives of this project it is intended to introduce modern techniques derived from permaculture and agro forestry practices within the fold of the hema and harim systems. Food security is foremost in our minds and this project will operate an open door policy when it comes to sharing the lessons learnt from our endeavours with the local population and further afield.

I am very delighted and honoured to be part of this project and wish it the success it so richly deserves."

Fazlun Khalid

Founder/Director (IFEES)
Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences



"The Children's Eco Village that Islamic Help is building just outside Dares Salam is an innovative and ground-breaking project that will provide security and stability to the most vulnerable in our society.

I had the pleasure of conducting the opening ceremony of the very first house built in the village and was so pleased to see the smiles on the faces of the orphans that were being housed. This is an exciting venture and I applaud Islamic Help for their foresight and vision. Insha'Allah (God willing) it will be a model village for others to emulate."

His Excellency Hon. Al Haj Ally Hassan Mwinyi
President of Tanzania (1985-1995)



"On our last day in Tanzania we had an opportunity to spend a day at the Eco Village, something we had all heard and read about, but seeing it with my own eyes I never imagined it to be so beautiful. As soon as I walked through the gates I forgot that I had come from the city; it was so calm and serene. I couldn't believe how big it was as we were given a tour around the village. From the area they built for the ducks to live, to the Hima and Harim areas, I was amazed to learn that they had thought of everything to make this a self-sustained village."

Shareen Juwle
Islamic Help Volunteer



"I was delighted and privileged to be invited by Islamic Help to visit their projects in Tanzania. I spent a week in August 2014 seeing a range of their amazing local schemes – all of which are aimed at benefiting local communities irrespective of their faith.

I was particularly impressed with their ECO village programme where Islamic Help have established various methods of permaculture and environmental conservation in order to train the local community to respond to major challenges such as food security.

It was also very humbling to hear about the work Islamic Help are doing to support local orphans. I met Tiba and her friends who told me how they had been helped into education and a better life by Islamic Help

It was overwhelming to see the commitment and dedication by young volunteers from the UK, local Islamic Help staff and the communities themselves to ensure that this projects make a difference to the lives of local people. I am proud to be an advocate for this work in Tanzania."

The Rt. Hon. Lord MacLennan of Rogart
British House of Lords





REACHING PEOPLE IN NEED



Head Office

19 Ombersley Road
Balsall Heath
Birmingham
B12 8UR
UNITED KINGDOM

Tel +44 (0) 121 446 5682
info@islamichelp.org.uk

Tanzania Office

Plot Number 401
Kambarage Street
Mikocheni A.
Dar Es Salaam
TANZANIA

+255 (0) 222 772 227
info@islamichelp.co.tz

islamichelp.org.uk