

Grant Proposal: \$80k Ramadan Iftar Distribution Project

Cover letter

11/29/22

- Mr. Hamadi Bengabsia
- Chairman
- Islamic Relief U.S.A
- 22250 Alexandria, VA

RE: IFTAR DISTRIBUTION PROJECT

Dear Mr. Bengabsia.

Muslims Giving Back (MGB) is pleased to present this proposal for the partnership with IRUSA for the Hot Meals grant. Through IRUSA's Hot Meals grant, MGB aims to work to alleviate food insecurity in four major locations in Brooklyn, New York this Ramadan. Through this program, MGB will be able to provide iftar to the needy and hungry groups who aren't able to afford a nutritious meal after a long day of fasting.

MGB is a non-profit organization established in 2012 as an extension of the Need 2 Feed Program based in Brooklyn, New York. The program expanded to the development of the Hunger Truck, a truck that goes beyond serving hot meals to those who need it in branches around major cities in the U.S., such as Houston, TX, Dallas, Texas, and Washington, D.C. The Hunger Truck also delivers essentials during seasonal changes throughout the country. MGB leads more programs like the MGB community pantry based in Sunset Park and the MGB project transformation for safe homes. MGB aims to serve and build the community through its acts of service.

MGB has achieved success in launching these programs in local communities and is expanding its projects globally. Last year, MGB launched the Freedom Bakeries project. Freedom Bakeries is a non-profit project that aims to feed starving families on a global scale. It has nine locations worldwide and has 1,800+ families fed.

We value IRUSA coming into our local communities this Ramadan and aiding us in our goal of preparing iftar for the needy and less fortunate. For further information or questions concerning this proposal, you can contact us at 555-555-5555.

Thank you,

- Maria Ulfah
- Events Coordinator
- 237 54th Street
- Brooklyn, New York 11235

Executive Summary

The MGB 30-day Iftar project seeks to feed the needy, the elderly, and the less privileged members of the community with a nutritious meal for Iftar. In four locations in Brooklyn, one community mosque will be hosting over 60+ community members who do not have access to a warm meal over the span of thirty days. These community members often break their meals with scraps, leftovers, or canned foods instead of a whole meal. The members are both young and elderly. The elderly cannot work, or they aren't able to make a meal or afford a meal. The young members often rely on school meals to meet their needs, however, Iftar is after school hours and the students don't have another nutritious source of food. These community members are likely to face hunger and malnourishment upon breaking their fast this Ramadan, they are eligible for food security and participation in the Iftar distribution project.

MGB expects to prepare and distribute 60+ hot meals for the 30 days of Ramadan in four select locations in Brooklyn, New York. This will be achieved with the IRUSA partnership and the funding so that MGB can mobilize its resources and work to prepare and distribute the meals every day for the duration of Ramadan.

The Iftar Distribution project will be a success when MGB is able to repeat it on a larger scale the next Ramadan. This Project is Important to MGB because they believe there is always something that can be done for the local community members who are facing starvation and malnutrition. MGB believes they are all responsible for making sure no members of the communities are facing these problems on their own.

Problem statements

New Yorkers are struggling due to inflation and the rise in food costs and other basic necessities. According to researchers, visits to soup kitchens and food pantries rose from 69% in 2019 to 83% this year. Muslims who are struggling with this have it harder because the majority of these pantries and soup kitchens do not serve halal food, statistics show that less than 30% of food pantries serve halal food in New York.

Students also face food insecurity; this includes Muslim students. According to researchers in Feeding America, one in four children face food insecurity. In Ramadan, students don't have access to school lunches because Iftar is after school hours.

This underrepresented group of people deserves to have access to a nutritious whole meal after a hard day of fasting. They still go to their local mosques to pray and complete these duties. MGB believes it is important to make sure that these community members can come to their local mosques to fill their hunger needs as well.

Need description

The Iftar Distribution project will be feeding 60+ members of the community, in the community center, which is the mosque in four different locations. These members will have food security for all thirty days of Ramadan. The community members from MGB will prepare and distribute the meals through volunteers. They will take care of procuring halal ingredients and preparing the meals in halal local volunteer restaurants and kitchens. This way the members can eat certified halal meals.

The MGB team will be responsible for the set-up, distribution, and clean-up of the meals daily. The first team will prepare each meal in the mornings and a separate team will handle the packaging. The food trucks will come to pick up the packaged meals and bring them to their locations where they will be met with a team to set up the meals in the Mosques. That team will also be responsible for the clean-up. With a total of four volunteer stations per location, MGB will be able to prepare and distribute close to 2,000 meals by the end of Ramadan.

Work Schedule

ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
Submit Grant Proposal	December 2022
Expected Grant Notification	January 2023
Create volunteer Restaurants + Kitchens	February 2023
Prepare Mosques with Supplies	February 2023
Food prep + Gather Ingredients	March 15, 2023
Begin Distribution	March 22, 2023
Complete Iftar Distribution Project	April 2023

Budget

The budgeting can be broken down into the following,

- \$80K total funding
- 4 locations in Brooklyn
- \$20K Per location
- \$666 per day
- \$66 meals per day in each mosque for 30 days

MGB will be able to provide almost 2,000 meals in each location by the end of the month of Ramadan.

The total cost of \$666 per day will cover the cost of the packaging, preparation, and distribution of food per day. This amount is reasonable because the food needs to be procured from halal sources and prepared in a halal kitchen and the packaging and distribution costs are covered as well.

The chart below breaks down the detailed costs of execution per location.

Locations	Brighton Mosque	Bay Ridge Mosque	Foster Mosque	Bedford Mosque
Total Budget	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
\$ Per Day	\$666	\$666	\$666	\$666
\$ Per Meal	\$66	\$66	\$66	\$66
Total meals	1,980	1,980	1,980	1,980

Qualification

MGB is qualified to lead this project because it is a non-profit company that has been established based on a food insecurity project, the Need 2 Feed project. From there the organization has branched out and led multiple food insecurity projects locally and globally. It has organized the widely successful Hunger Truck and Freedom Bakeries that are currently operating on a global scale.

The board members:

Mohamed Bahi
Founder & President

Soniya Ali
Executive Director
soniya@mccbrooklyn.org

Abdallah Salem
Resident Imam
imam@mccbrooklyn.org

Stanley Winston
Head of Logistics

Mohsin Ahmad
Administrator
mohsin@mccbrooklyn.org

Conclusions

This Ramadan the founders and board members of MGB want to focus on the roots of the organization in Brooklyn. They want to give back to the community members who face food insecurity the hardest and create a welcoming space for them to break their Iftar in their local Mosque.

IRUSA's Hot Meals Grant will help MGB prepare and distribute almost 2000 meals in the thirty days of Ramadan. The project will be completed through volunteer efforts in the spirit of giving this coming Ramadan.

Appendix

- Letter of Support
- Freedom Bakeries reports, 2019-2022
- The Hunger Truck reports, 2019-2022
- Mosque Surveys
- Annual Report