

## RA AMONTHOF

Throughout the holy month of Ramadan this year, KSrelief launched a number of food basket distribution projects in 15 countries across Asia and Africa to ensure that the world's most vulnerable families had enough food secured for the entire month, and that their nutritional needs would be met. This year, KSrelief dedicated USD 11.8 million in funding for international Ramadan food distribution projects, which will reach over 1.3 million beneficiaries in targeted areas with much-needed food aid.

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In 2018, as part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's ongoing commitment to providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Yemen, the MASAM Project for Landmine Clearance in Yemen was launched; the goal of the project is to clear Yemen of all land mines and other explosive devices. The large number of land mines and other explosive devices planted throughout the country pose a serious threat to the people of Yemen. These devices have killed and injured thousands of innocent Yemenis, including children, women and the elderly, and have caused permanent disabilities and severe injuries to many. In order to provide further comprehensive support for victims of landmine injuries, KSrelief has also launched four Artificial Limbs Centers in Yemen, one each in the governorates of Ma'rib, Aden, Taiz, and Seiyun. These centers provide prosthetic devices, comprehensive physical therapy and other support services to land mine victims to help them to regain their mobility and get back to living normal lives.

236,864

MINES CLEARED SINCE THE LAUNCH OF THE PROJECT

• To clear Yemen of land mines and enhance security throughout Yemen.

OBJECTIVES

- To help the Yemeni people address the humanitarian tragedies resulting from the proliferation of landmines.
- To establish mechanisms for sustainable humanitarian mine-removal by empowering and training local cadres in deactivating these devices.

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## CRAWLING BACK TO LIFE

he children of Yemen are among the most affected by the proliferation of land mines and other explosive devices in the country. These land mines have killed and injured many people in Yemen, and many of the victims are left with serious physical injuries, disabilities and psychological trauma that devastate their lives.

In the village of Al-Siman in the Directorate of Dhubab in the western part of Yemen, 15-year-old Haidari Ibrahim was one among thousands whose lives have been turned upside down after losing limbs due to land mine explosions.

Haidari shared his painful story. "Hardly a day passes without one of our sheep falling victim to mines, or some of our relatives becoming victims of these deadly devices, and we live in a constant state of fear. However, I never imagined that one day I would be the victim."

"One day," he continued, "I went out to herd my sheep in the mountains. It is a regular task that I and my brothers take turns doing after school, because this work is the source of our family's livelihood. While grazing the sheep from one place to another, one of my sheep went up the mountain, so I followed it to bring it back to the rest of the herd. As I was walking, I stepped on something that exploded instantly and I felt severe pain and lack of control over the lower part of my body. I could hear the voice of my friend who was crying and screaming in fear, and the voices of the herdsmen who rushed to the place at the sound of the explosion, but none of them dared to help me fearing that they would step on a mine. I sat bleeding at the site of the explosion until the demining teams arrived to pick me up. I lost a lot of blood, and I could no longer feel my body."

Heavily burdened by this painful memory, he then added, "I stayed in the hospital for several months to receive treatment. I lost one leg during the explosion, and the other was amputated in the hospital. When I got out of the hospital, I was filled with despair and hopelessness, unable to imagine how I could return to my village with only half of my body. I wondered if I would ever be able to live a normal life again."

"I faced a lot of difficulties after my return to the village. My movement was no longer the same as it used to be, and it was extremely difficult to move using my hands alone. I did not want to go to school, as it was far from my home, and it would be very difficult to go to there every day; I decided to leave school and stay home. But my mother continued to tell me that even though God had taken my legs, he had also blessed me with a bright mind, and that education could be the gateway to a better life for me."

"With the encouragement and support of my mother, I decided to get back to school and continue my education. I was grateful to find all the support I needed from my colleagues and teachers. All I hope for is a wheelchair that helps me move to and from school more easily so I can continue my education and achieve my dreams. I also hope that the MASAM project will completely clear Al-Siman Mountain of mines, so that security will return and people can live safely and without fear."

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