

# WHO WE FUND & ELIGIBILITY GUIDANCE

*WMB - Zakat Impact Fund*

## Who We Fund & Eligibility Guidance

### 1. Introduction

The **Zakat Impact Fund** is a UK-registered charitable initiative focused on deploying zakat into **high-impact, high-leverage opportunities** that strengthen the long-term economic, social, civic, and spiritual wellbeing of Muslims in the UK and globally.

We combine strategic philanthropy, governance excellence, and deep community understanding to support organisations that deliver meaningful and measurable outcomes. Our philosophy is simple:

**We fund institutions and initiatives that create long-term, structural, and sustainable change.**

## **2. Our Long-Term Goals**

Every grant awarded must advance at least one of the Fund's three core outcomes:

### **2.1 A Self-Sustaining Zakat Pot**

Strengthening individuals who are zakat-eligible through:

- employment pathways
- vocational and skills training
- micro-entrepreneurship
- debt relief and financial stability

**Goal:** enabling recipients to become future zakat contributors.

### **2.2 Strengthening the Ummah**

Supporting organisations and initiatives that build:

- legal protection and civic participation
- strategic policy insight
- leadership and talent pipelines
- Islamic financial literacy and economic empowerment
- stronger Muslim-led charities and social ventures

**Goal:** growing a confident, resilient, and influential Muslim community.

### **2.3 Building Affinity to Islam and Muslims**

Funding work that strengthens societal understanding of Islam, including:

- media representation and independent journalism
- narrative-setting and public education
- Islamophobia response and legal advocacy
- research, evidence, and data-driven insights

**Goal:** a society in which Muslims feel respected, safe, and valued.

### 3. What We Fund

We understand that structural change requires both direct impact and ecosystem development. Therefore, the Fund invests in four broad categories:

#### 3.1 Category A: Direct Poverty Alleviation & Economic Empowerment

This includes programmes that directly support zakat-eligible individuals, such as:

- vocational training
- job-readiness and employability support
- entrepreneurship and micro-business programmes
- hardship alleviation initiatives
- social mobility pathways

These align closely with zakat categories including the **poor**, **needy**, and **debtors**.

#### 3.2 Category B: Venture Philanthropy & Capacity Building

We support the strengthening of high-potential Muslim-led organisations through:

- leadership development
- strategic hires
- operational infrastructure
- long-term organisational capacity

This includes emerging social ventures and established charities building the next generation of community institutions.

#### 3.3 Category C: Strategic Influence & Community Power

We fund initiatives that shape the social, economic, political, and intellectual direction of the Muslim community, including:

- think tanks and policy institutions
- independent journalism and media
- civic and political literacy programmes
- Islamophobia legal support
- Islamic finance and financial justice education

These projects often deliver **high leverage** and significant long-term impact.

#### 3.4 Category D: Neglected High-Leverage Nodes

We intentionally invest in areas usually overlooked by charitable donors, such as:

- government-relations capacity
- institutional fundraising and partnerships roles
- policy analysts in critical sectors
- data, measurement, and research infrastructure

These roles often create disproportionate returns relative to the size of grant.

## **4. Who Can Apply**

We welcome applications from:

- UK registered charities
- overseas charities (subject to enhanced due diligence)
- non-profit organisations with charitable purposes
- think tanks, research bodies, and policy institutes
- civic participation and community empowerment organisations
- Muslim-led or Muslim-serving social ventures

If your work contributes meaningfully to strengthening Muslims in the UK or globally, we encourage you to apply.

## **5. What We Look For**

The strongest applications usually demonstrate:

### **5.1 Clear Alignment**

A strong connection to at least one of the Fund's long-term outcomes.

### **5.2 Strong Zakat Eligibility Case**

A clear explanation of:

- which zakat category applies
- why beneficiaries qualify
- how funds will be ring-fenced

### **5.3 Measurable Impact**

Defined outcomes, KPIs, and a realistic plan for delivery.

### **5.4 Governance & Capability**

Evidence of:

- strong leadership
- financial controls
- safeguarding
- accurate reporting
- organisational stability

### **5.5 High Leverage & Long-Term Value**

Proposals that unlock large social benefit or address critical gaps.

# Eligibility & Non-Eligibility Guidance

## 6. Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for funding, applicants must meet all of the following.

### 6.1 Alignment with the Fund's Mandate

Your work must clearly advance at least one of the Fund's outcomes:

- A Self-Sustaining Zakat Pot
- Strengthening the Ummah
- Building Affinity to Islam and Muslims

### 6.2 Zakat Eligibility

Your project must align with one or more zakat categories, such as:

- **Poor** (al-fuqarā')
- **Needy** (al-masākīn)
- **Those in debt** (al-ghārimīn)
- **Fi Sabilillah** (interpreted to include civic empowerment, research, legal protection, public benefit work, and societal strengthening)

Applicants should explain:

- the zakat category
- how eligibility is assessed
- how funds will be ring-fenced
- the compliance process

### 6.3 Public Benefit & Charity Law Compliance

Projects must clearly meet UK Charity Commission standards.

### 6.4 Governance Standards

Applicants should demonstrate:

- stable leadership
- sound financial controls
- dual-signatory bank accounts
- safeguarding (where relevant)
- conflict of interest policies

### 6.5 Demonstrable Impact

We look for:

- evidence-based problem statements
- clear outcomes and KPIs
- feasible methods of measuring success

## **7. Non-Eligibility Criteria**

The Fund does **not** typically support:

- purely religious instruction without public benefit
- international humanitarian relief (unless strategically aligned)
- political party campaigning or electioneering
- capital-heavy building projects without strong justification
- organisations with unresolved governance issues
- work not clearly aligned with zakat categories
- proposals benefiting non-zakat-eligible individuals without mechanisms in place

## **8. If You Are Unsure**

If you are uncertain about eligibility, please contact the Fund directly for guidance before applying. We aim to support applicants with clarity and transparency.