

HELPING OTHERS



The world has very limited resources . Since these are not distributed equally, it is important for all of us to help those who are in need . The economic recession and several natural disasters have also taken their toll on the global economy causing hardship to all .

Jobs and food are two of the objectives of the Rio+20 summit . As a concerned citizen and an child activist working towards the goals of Rio+20 , I actively take part in charity , to help impart education , food and drinking water to the needy .



I work on all the three pillars of sustainability . My work on helping others , is towards building a more equitable society , where economic and social well-being motivates everyone to work for the environment and a greener future.

A) THE WATER BUCKET WALK :

The 'Water Bucket Walk' was organized by 'Dubai Cares' to support children with limited access to clean drinking water in schools around the world and address one of the main issues preventing children's access to primary education. Held on Friday, 20th November 2009 which marked the 20th anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Children's Day, the 3-km 'Water Bucket Walk' along Jumeirah Beach Road received an overwhelming response from various members of the UAE community including women and children of all ages. I registered for the walk by paying AED 30 . This money would give 1 child access to clean drinking water for I full year .

شكراً لمتبرعتكم بـ 30 درهماً أتمنى أن يتلقاها في المدرسة شاكلي صبرا يوم الجمعة 20 نوفمبر 2009 في الساعة 8 صباحاً
Thank you for your AED 30 contribution. We look forward to seeing you at the Water Bucket Walk on Friday, 20 November, 2009 at 8AM

Last Name: KEHKASHAM اسم العائلة
First Name: PASSI الاسم الأول
Date: 7/11/09 التاريخ
Infants are not permitted. لا يمكن مشاركة الأطفال في المشي

يرجى إيراد هذا التذكرة عند الوصول إلى مكان انطلاق المشي
Please present this receipt at the start of the Walk

03675 www.dubaicare.ae

تعليم الأجيال القادمة
Educating Children for Generations to Come

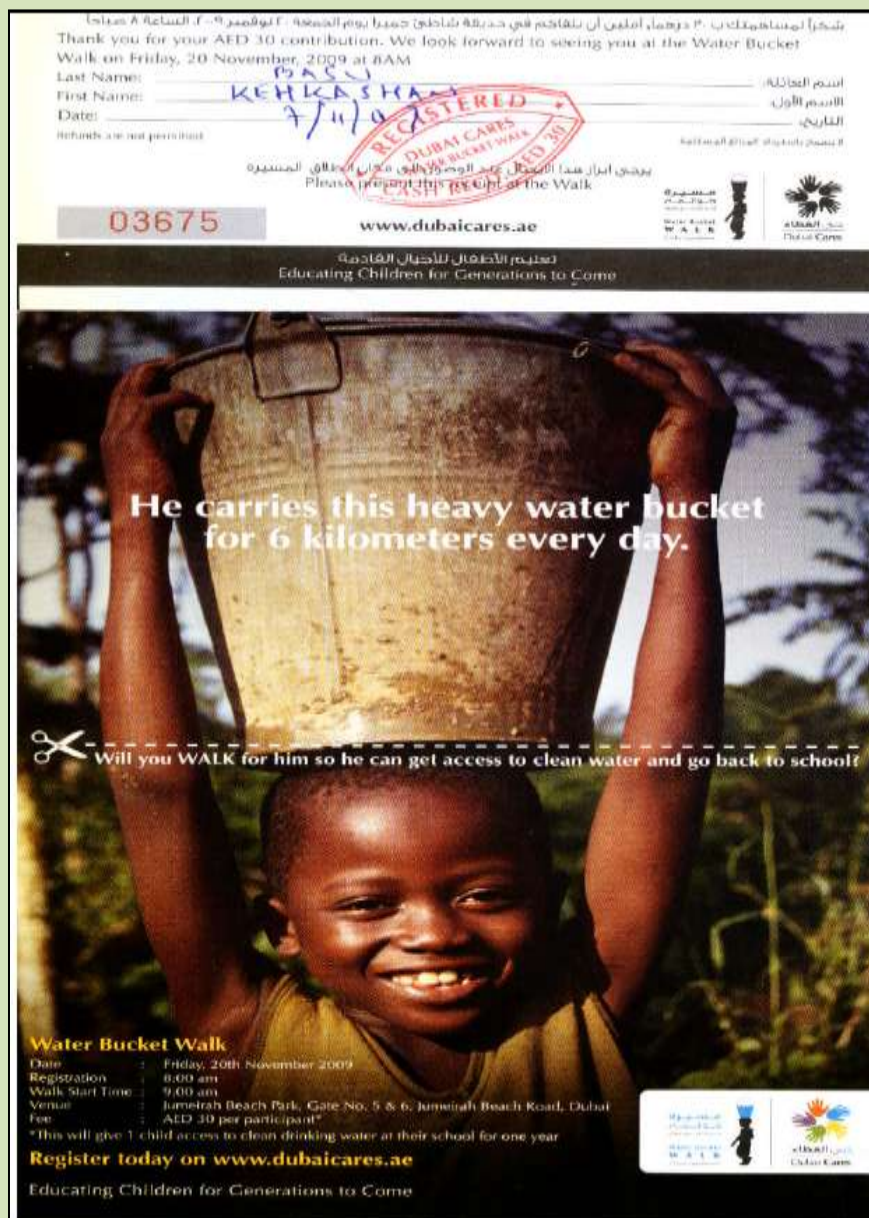
He carries this heavy water bucket for 6 kilometers every day.

Will you WALK for him so he can get access to clean water and go back to school?

Water Bucket Walk
Date : Friday, 20th November 2009
Registration : 8:00 am
Walk Start Time : 9:00 am
Venue : Jumeirah Beach Park, Gate No. 5 & 6, Jumeirah Beach Road, Dubai
Fee : AED 30 per participant
*This will give 1 child access to clean drinking water at their school for one year

Register today on www.dubaicare.ae

تعليم الأجيال القادمة
Educating Children for Generations to Come

The image shows a registration form for the 'Water Bucket Walk' and a poster for the same event. The form is at the top, with a red 'REGISTERED' stamp in the center. Below the form is a poster featuring a young boy smiling while carrying a large, heavy metal water bucket on his head. The poster text asks if the viewer will walk for him to gain access to clean water and return to school. At the bottom of the poster, there is a list of event details including the date (Friday, 20th November 2009), registration time (8:00 am), start time (9:00 am), venue (Jumeirah Beach Park), and fee (AED 30 per participant). Logos for 'Dubai Cares' and 'United Nations' are visible at the bottom right of the poster.



The walk was for a distance of 3kms and I had to walk with a bucket on my head . My bucket was empty , but the child whose picture appears on the brochure walks for 6kms every day with a FULL bucket on his head . I am glad I could contribute and help reduce his burden.



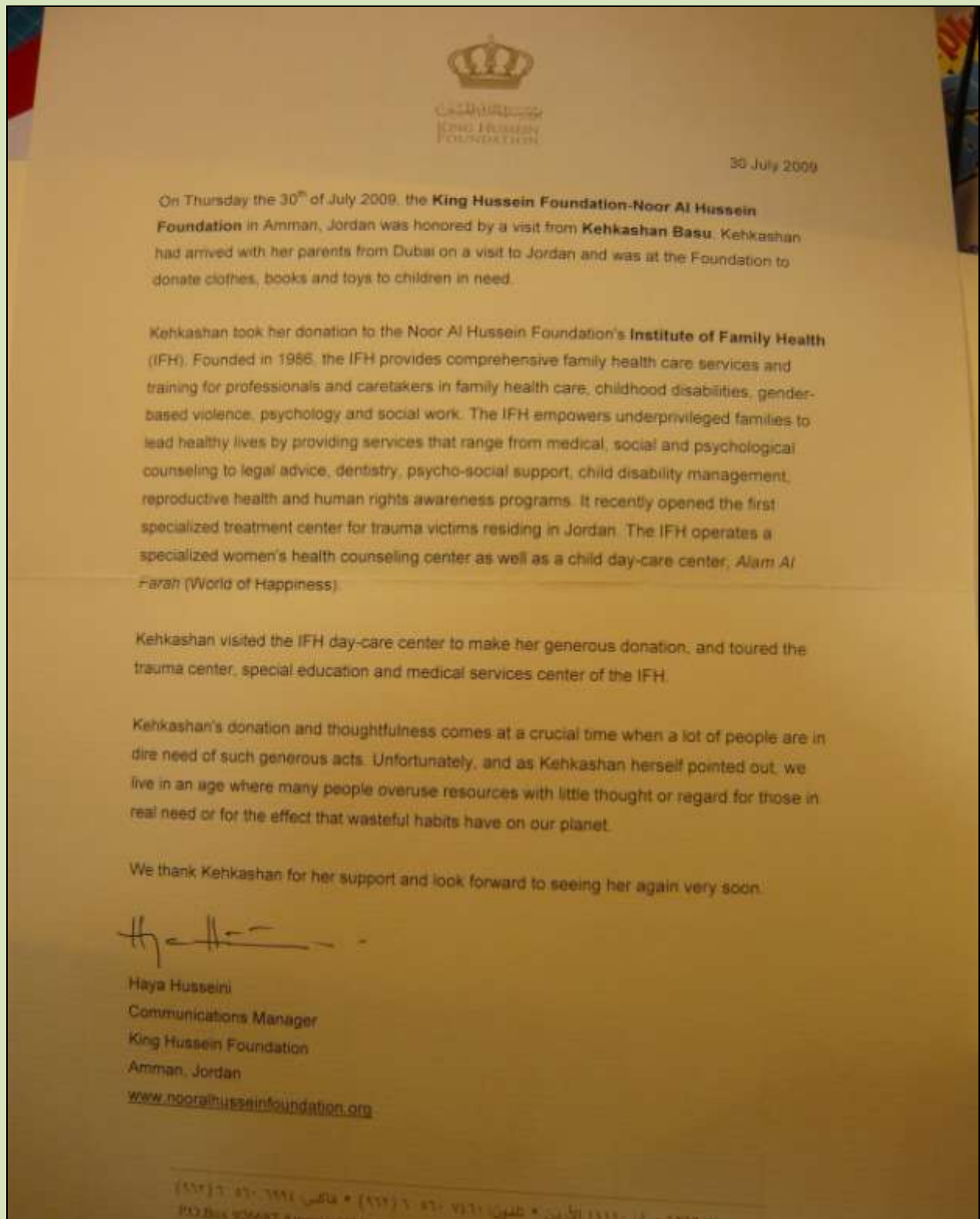
B) HELPING THE REFUGEES OF IRAQ & PALESTINE :

When my parents planned to take me on holiday to Jordan in July ,2009 , I decided to take my toys , books and extra clothes along with me to donate there . I contacted the King Hussein Foundation and with the help of their Communications Manager, Ms. Haya Al Hussein , I made my donation to the Noor Al Hussein Institute of Family Health , a subsidiary of the King Hussein Foundation , which takes care of children and war victims from Iraq and Palestine . The joy on the faces of the children when they opened my suitcase full of goodies made me the happiest person on that day.



At the 'Noor Al Hussein Institute of Family Health' with Ms . Haya Hussein , Communications Manager of King Hussein Foundation.

I received this letter of appreciation from Ms Haya Hussein , Communications Manager of the King Hussein Foundation , Jordan for my charity work.



C) **MILLION BOOK CHALLENGE** :

This was a voluntary campaign of 'Dubai Cares' in which I participated . Dubai Cares had promised to donate 1 new book to a needy child for every book that the volunteers read . The period of this campaign was two weeks and the target was to donate 1 million books. Fortunately , by the end of two weeks , 1,323,218 books were read and contributed . I felt really honoured to have been a volunteer in this international effort.



D) EDUCATING THE GIRL CHILD CAMPAIGN :

There are 42 millions girls around the world today who do not go to school . 'Dubai Cares' launched a charity drive to collect donations for educating the girl child. For every donation made , a symbolic brick was placed . Several such bricks would help to build a classroom. I took active part in this campaign and raised donations for the same.





E) FIGHT AGAINST GLOBAL HUNGER :

The World Food Programme in association with Dubai Municipality organised the 'Walk The World' campaign to increase awareness about the bleak food shortages in some parts of the world , thereby prompting others to conserve and reduce wastage and also help to raise funds for tackling this problem . I actively participated in this noble endeavour and helped to raise funds .



F) EDUWALK -- DUBAI CARES INITIATIVE :

The Key theme of this 'Dubai cares' initiative was that " when you educate a girl child in Africa, her income as an adult will increase by 25%' . Children , especially girls , face severe discrimination in many underdeveloped parts of the world . It is very important therefore to provide education to them so that they can be self-reliant. Without education , how can anyone even understand about green economy and conservation. I took part in this campaign with a lot of passion and encouraged my peers to attend too.





Conclusion :

The world we live in is faced with many challenges. Some are social , some economic and some environmental --- these three factors form the basis of sustainability . One must work on all fronts to ensure that we are able to protect and save Mother Earth for future generations . I , therefore , work not just for the environment , but also try and organize awareness and campaigns about alleviating social and economic issues. Sustainability is now second nature to me . I live with it every waking moment and dream about new ways to move forward while I sleep. It makes my life most fulfilling since I feel that I am contributing towards a greener planet . If we go around improving our own lifestyle, other people will start copying us and picking up their own carbon 'litter' too. As a responsible child , I am also fulfilling my duty towards our universal mother i.e. Nature . Children are the future and it is imperative that we should play a defining role in ensuring that it is secure , habitable , pollution free and green. We must work towards the 'Future We Want'.

To quote a native American proverb "*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.*"

by Kehkashan Basu

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