

IBQS Activity Report (2022–2025)

Below is a summary of the activities carried out by the International Union of Braille Quran Services (IBQS) between 2022 and 2025.

1) Workshop with the Religious Affairs Authority of Kazakhstan

Date: December 25–26, 2023

A workshop titled “The Role of Civil Society in Religious Services for the Visually Impaired” was held in collaboration with the Religious Affairs Authority of Kazakhstan. The opening session was attended by Sevim Madak, Deputy Minister of Family and Social Services of Türkiye. Over the two-day program, Dr. Selahattin Aydın and Mr. Halis Kuralay delivered sessions to 12 participants from Kazakhstan, focusing on the unique needs of visually impaired individuals and the importance of inclusive religious services.

2) “Leaders of the Future” IBQS Project

Date: January 13, 2023

IBQS President Halis Kuralay visited Murat Ellialtı, Secretary General of the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay), to discuss potential areas of cooperation. During the meeting, it was proposed to organize a leadership camp for young individuals with leadership potential from various countries. The camp was planned to be held at the Red Crescent’s facility on the Princes' Islands in Istanbul, with international participants selected by IBQS.

Although applications were collected following a public announcement by IBQS, it was later discovered that none of the selected candidates could cover their travel expenses. As a result, the camp was postponed to be reconsidered in the coming years.

3) Braille Quran Distribution to Burkina Faso

Date: October 16, 2024

IBQS sent 8 Braille Qurans and 10 sets of slate and stylus to the blind Quran students in Burkina Faso. The recipients expressed their gratitude and satisfaction through photos and video messages.

4) Braille Quran Shipment to Kazakhstan

Date: October 19, 2024

In preparation for upcoming Quran courses for the blind in Kazakhstan, IBQS received a request for braille Qurans to be donated. A total of 56 Braille Qurans were provided and shipped to the relevant authorities upon donation payment.

5) Partnership with “Umuda Koşanlar” Association

Date: October 14, 2024

IBQS President Halis Kuralay and his spouse Ayşe Kuralay visited the “Umuda Koşanlar” Association, which conducts humanitarian aid activities worldwide. During the meeting, potential areas for collaboration were discussed, and the association pledged support to help deliver Braille Quran services to visually impaired Muslims in the regions where they operate.

6) Visit to ÇareDer (Çare Association)

Date: October 22, 2024

President Halis Kuralay visited ÇareDer, an organization active in countries such as Pakistan, the Philippines, Nigeria, and Uganda. The meeting was attended by ÇareDer President Mehmet Sütü, Vice President Muhammed Rıza Derindağ, and Uganda Orphanage Coordinator Emre Olgay. As a result of the meeting, both organizations agreed to collaborate in countries where ÇareDer is active. The first joint initiative will be the organization of a Braille Quran course in Uganda.

7) Shipment of Braille Qurans and Educational Materials to Sierra Leone

Date: November 1, 2024

In response to a message sent to IBQS’s Facebook page by Alusine Jallow, a 27-year-old visually impaired individual from Sierra Leone expressing interest in learning Braille Quran, contact was established via WhatsApp. A WhatsApp group of 17 visually impaired individuals from Sierra Leone interested in Braille Quran learning was formed. Following an online meeting, it was decided to send 25 Braille Qurans and Quran primers to Sierra Leone. The materials were successfully delivered with the support of the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation.

8) Visit to Esenler Municipality

Date: November 11, 2024

A delegation consisting of IBQS President Halis Kuralay and members Seyit Ahmet Olgun and Azimet Zıba visited the Mayor of Esenler Municipality, Mr. Tevfik Göksu. The delegation briefed the Mayor on Braille Quran education efforts in Türkiye, the mission and activities of IBQS, and requested support for the upcoming General Assembly and panel planned for 2025.

9) Shipment of Braille Qurans and Slates to Nigeria

Date: November 21, 2024

A school for the visually impaired in Kano State, Nigeria, contacted IBQS requesting 15 Braille Qurans and 30 braille slates. With the support of the Aziz Mahmud Hüdayi Foundation—an organization with which IBQS maintains strong relations—the request was fulfilled. The materials were delivered to a school serving around 600 visually impaired and 1,000 hearing-

impaired students. The gratitude and joy expressed by school staff and students upon receiving the items were heartwarming.

10) Braille Quran Course in Uganda

Date: January 2, 2025

Since its establishment, IBQS has organized several local in-person and many online international Braille Quran courses. The course held in Uganda marks the first in-person Braille Quran course conducted internationally.

The program took place between January 2–24, 2025. Travel expenses and educational materials were provided by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA). Turkish Airlines handled the shipment of materials free of charge, while accommodation and meals were covered by the Çare Association. IBQS undertook the educational responsibility, assigning two Braille Quran instructors from Türkiye.

The course was also a first for Uganda's visually impaired Muslim community. A total of 35 participants attended, of whom 29 successfully learned to read the Quran. Notably, 4 of the students were Christian; during the course, two of them embraced Islam by reciting the Shahada.

As part of the program, participants had the opportunity to engage in an online experience-sharing session with Dr. Selahattin Aydın (Founding President of IBQS), Anwar al-Nassar from Saudi Arabia, Abdulwasi (President of IBQS institutional member MAVIN in Nigeria), and Board Member Asmanou Bouraima from Togo.

To ensure sustainability of the education, selected male and female students from Uganda will be brought to Türkiye for a one-year training program, after which they will return to Uganda to serve as Braille Quran educators.

11) Educational Opportunities for Visually Impaired Muslim Students in Uganda

Following the Uganda Braille Quran course, the IBQS Uganda team visited Sheik Osman Nuri Topbaş, leader of the Aziz Mahmud Hüdayi Foundation. The foundation operates schools in several countries across Africa and beyond. During the meeting, the IBQS delegation proposed integrating visually impaired Muslim students into the foundation's educational network. The foundation has agreed to pilot an inclusive education initiative in Uganda, beginning next year. Visually impaired students will be placed in existing classrooms through an integration model. If successful, this program will gradually be expanded to the foundation's high schools in other countries.

12) Iftar in Togo

Date: March 1, 2025

An iftar meal for 100 people was hosted at a school affiliated with the Togo Muslim Blind Association, founded by IBQS Board Member Asmanou Bouraima. The event was warmly

received by students, staff, and guests. The school continues to offer both academic education and Quran memorization programs specifically designed for the blind.

13) Traditional IBQS Türkiye Iftar

Date: March 19, 2025

The traditional IBQS iftar in Türkiye was held with the participation of 150 guests. Attendees included representatives from the Istanbul Visually Impaired Rehabilitation Center and various NGOs.

The program began with recitations from the Braille Quran along with Turkish translation. IBQS President Halis Kuralay provided a brief history of the organization. Visually impaired individuals from countries such as Bangladesh, Somalia, Togo, and Uganda joined the event to share their reflections. The evening concluded with closing remarks from former IBQS President Dr. Selahattin Aydın and former Member of Parliament Lokman Ayva.

14) Iftar in Somalia

Date: April 1, 2025

With the support of volunteers, IBQS provided daily iftar meals throughout Ramadan to students at Albasir School in Somalia, where IBQS Board Member Abikar Huseyin serves as director. Additionally, an iftar event was held in Mogadishu with the participation of government officials and representatives from civil society organizations.

Prior to the iftar, IBQS President Halis Kuralay visited the school and delivered educational materials prepared for visually impaired students.

15) Revision of the Quran Primer

Date: May 1, 2025

The English-language Braille Quran primer, developed years ago under the leadership of Founding President Dr. Selahattin Aydın, has been widely used in Braille Quran courses around the world. Based on the insights and feedback gathered during the Uganda course, it was determined that certain improvements were needed. The updated version is now nearing completion.

16) Planned Visit to Canada

To promote IBQS's work and explore potential collaborations, President Halis Kuralay is scheduled to make an official visit to Canada in September 2025. The visit aims to introduce the organization, share ongoing activities, and hold meetings with local partners.

17) Planned Braille Quran Course in the Philippines

In response to an invitation from blind colleagues in the Philippines, IBQS is planning a visit in October 2025 to support a local Braille Quran course. This initiative will help strengthen

access to religious education among the visually impaired Muslim community in the region.

18) Planned Braille Quran Course in Tanzania

Although not yet finalized, plans are underway to hold a Braille Quran course in Tanzania in either December 2025 or January 2026. IBQS is expected to participate in and support this course once details are confirmed.