

Zakat al-fitr

A measure of food from every Muslim, paid before the 'Id prayer. Who owes it, how much, and when.



★ On every Muslim

He ﷺ made one sa' of dates or barley obligatory on every Muslim, slave or free, male or female, young or old.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1503, 1504, 1512

★ Paid for the household

Ibn 'Umar gave it for every young and old person of his house, and even on behalf of the children. The head pays for those he maintains.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1511

★ Food of the place

Dates, barley, raisins, cheese or meal — the staple people actually eat. Half a sa' of wheat was reckoned to stand for a sa' of the rest.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1506, 1507, 1511

★ How much a sa' is

Four double handfuls — about 2.7 kg of rice by the common reckoning. Your state zakat authority publishes the exact figure each year.

- Shafi'i: the food itself; Hanafi: its price in money

Sahih al-Bukhari 1503, 1505

★ Before the prayer

He ﷺ ordered it paid before the people went out to pray. Ibn 'Umar's household paid a day or two early, which is allowed.

Sahih al-Bukhari 1503, 1509, 1511

★ What it is for

A purification for the one who fasted and food for the poor, so that nobody in the street is hungry on the morning of 'Id.

Sunan Abi Dawud, Kitab al-Zakat · hasan