

FIGURE 3: ZAKAT BENEFICIARY CATEGORIES AND POTENTIAL LINKS TO AREAS OF HUMANITARIAN NEED



### Al-Fuqara

**The poor:** Poverty and vulnerability to humanitarian crises are closely linked; the majority of people living in the top recipient countries of humanitarian assistance are chronically poor. Al-Fuqara is therefore directly applicable to a large proportion of people in need of humanitarian assistance, and can be applied to people living in extreme or chronic poverty.



### Al'Mu'allafate-Qulubuhum

**The reconciliation of hearts; those who have embraced or are inclined towards Islam:** 'Reconciliation of hearts' could be interpreted to refer to peace-building activities.



### Ibtnas-Sabil

**The wayfarer, or stranded traveller:** Refugees and internally displaced people.



### Al-Masakeen

**The needy:** Could apply to anyone in need of assistance in the aftermath of a crisis or disaster.



### Fir-Riqab

**People in bondage or slavery:** Could apply to people who are enslaved, oppressed or wrongly imprisoned, or to victims of trafficking.



### Al-'Amilina 'Alayha

**Alms collectors/administrators of Zakat:** Can be used to cover administrative costs related to the collection and distribution of Zakat for humanitarian agencies.



### Al-Gharimin

**People burdened with debt:** Where debt is faced as an element of extreme or chronic poverty or as a consequence of humanitarian crisis, Zakat can be used as a recovery mechanism. It could also be argued under this category that Zakat could be used to support people living in countries impacted by high levels of national debt, where that debt reduces the government's domestic spending capacity and therefore limits citizens' access to basic services (note however that Zakat can only be used to support individuals, and not to relieve the burden of debt for the government). Almost one third of the people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2012 were living in low-income countries classified by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund as having a moderate or high risk of debt distress, or were already in debt distress.<sup>35</sup>



### Fi-sabilillah

**Those in the path of God:** There are no clear links between the category of Fi-sabilillah and people in need of humanitarian assistance. This category is also particularly compromised by the interpretation of whether non-Muslims are eligible to benefit from Zakat.