10526 - Giving the price of zakat al-fitr to a charitable organization at the beginning of Ramadan

the question

Is it permissible for a charitable organization to accept money for zakat al-fitr at the beginning of Ramadan, so that they can put it to the best possible use?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

If there are no poor people in the area, or those who will take it do not really need it and will not eat it, but will instead sell it at half price, and it is difficult to find poor and needy people who will eat it, then it is permissible to send it outside the country. It is permissible to give the price (of zakat al-fitr) at the beginning of the month to an agent who will buy (zakat al-fitr) and deliver it to deserving people at the time when it should be paid, which is the night before Eid or two days before that.

And Allah knows best.