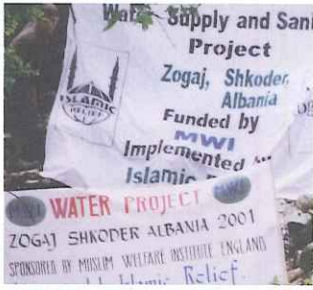


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Partnership



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WITH THE NEEDY

UK Edition الإغاثة الإسلامية

Royal commendation for relief efforts

Shaheda Dewan
Media and PR

HRH the Prince of Wales visited Islamic Relief on 1st of November in recognition of its humanitarian aid efforts in Afghanistan at its UK Head Office in London. The visit included hearing a first hand account of the crisis from Sikander Ali, Islamic Relief's Country Representative for Afghanistan. The Prince emphasised his support for the "wonderful work being done by Islamic Relief to alleviate the terrible suffering of the refugees in Afghanistan".

The ordinary man in Afghanistan wants nothing more than daily bread for his children

Mr Ali, called into Britain to give evidence at the International Development Select Committee Meeting, gave the Prince of Wales a first hand account of the devastating crisis facing ordinary Afghans. He has been working in the country since March ensuring aid reaches the most vulnerable, and has been co-ordinating with various NGO's and governmental bodies including the Emergency Task Force in Afghanistan. Mr Ali expressed his concerns that the media have not captured the true extent of the humanitarian catastrophe, "cities like Kabul and Kandahar are virtually without any food or water, people are bewildered by their plight".

Mr Ali explained that the people of Afghanistan were in a harrowing condition, "they feel that they're caught in the middle. The ordinary man is not concerned about international politics. As a father myself with a 19-month-old child I see these people fleeing with their cots on donkeys and see the fear in the faces of children".

The Country Representative has been overseeing the preparation of a 1000 tonne food convoy, as well as coordinating the refugee camps in Chaman. To date 225 tonnes of wheat flour and 1,000 cartons of oil have been distributed in the Panjwai and Maiwand Districts of Khandahar (30th October), benefiting approximately 14,000 people. Mid November a 52 tonnes food convoy distributed in Kabul City benefiting 7543 people. A further 775 tonnes of food, benefiting approximately 50,000 people, has arrived into Afghanistan and is currently in the process of being distributed in the Kandahar province. "The ordinary man in Afghanistan wants nothing more than daily bread for his children" said Mr Ali.

The Prince of Wales addressed a mixed audience of key local figures, including Ahmed Ad-



Prince Charles pledged a donation to Islamic relief's Afghan Appeal, (L) IR Director Dr Hany El-Banna

Dubayan, Director of Islamic Cultural Centre, and Mahmud Al-Rashid, Deputy of Muslim Council of Britain. He spoke about September 11th and events since, and expressed real concern for the British Islamic community, for whom the "past few weeks have been so difficult". The practical efforts of organisations like

Islamic Relief working closely with governments alongside other charities impressed the Prince. He called upon 'moderate people' of all faiths and creeds to speak up and make that 'extra leap of imagination away from the ignorant certainties of bigotry towards a genuine attempt at mutual understanding and respect'.

The Prince of Wales stressed the importance of the 'private citizen' to play his part and pledged that he would be matching his donation to the Red Cross Afghan Crisis Appeal, "I urge everyone to do what they can to help tackle what is fast becoming a humanitarian catastrophe of unimaginable proportions".

Operation Afghanistan

- Islamic Relief's offices in Kabul, Kajaki (Helmand Province), and Kandahar are still operational.
- 225 tonnes of food, 1000 cartons of oil have been distributed in Panjwai and Maiwand districts of Kandahar province on the 30th of October.
- Approximately 100 tonnes of food have been distributed in Kabul city 1st and 21st November.
- 775 tonnes of food is currently in the process of distribution in the Kandahar province.
- Islamic Relief working in partnership with World Food Programme (WFP) and will be distributing 250 tonnes of food to the Internally Displaced People (IDP) in the Spin Boldak Camp of Kandahar Province, benefiting 17,500 people.
- An extensive 'Ramadan food packet' distribution programme in Kabul City is to commence late November.
- Islamic Relief is working closely with UNHCR, and is currently managing the refugee camps in Chaman, Pakistan. To date, approximately 2,600 Afghans have been registered at the camp.
- An influx of thousands of Afghans is expected in Baluchistan, operating from the Quetta Office, Islamic Relief's Emergency Response Team is currently pre-positioning supplies of canvas family tents, blankets/quilts, hygiene packs, water tanks, and kitchen sets.
- In partnership with UNHCR Islamic Relief's Emergency Response Team has begun site preparation work at the Peshook Camp in Baluchistan. The camp will cater for 20,000 refugees.

