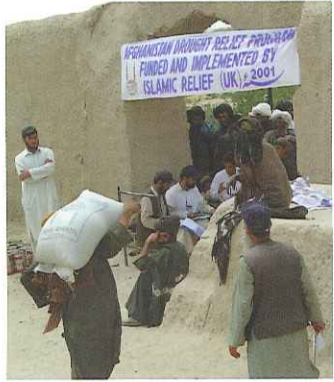


I.R signs \$885,534 agreement for Drought Aid in Afghanistan
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Feeding the people of Albania, one of the poorest countries in Europe
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Mali – an update on Islamic Relief's Aid programme within the country
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Partnership

THE NEWSLETTER OF ISLAMIC RELIEF

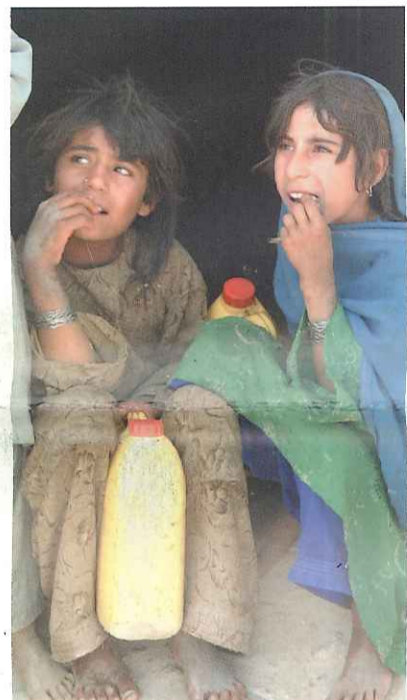


Islamic Relief is a charity dedicated to alleviating the poverty and suffering of the world's poorest people.

Autumn 2001
Ramadan 1422AH
issue no. 18
www.islamic-relief.com

Islamic Relief launches \$10,000,000 appeal

Muhammad Imran



Children in Kharullah village, Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

A humanitarian disaster of catastrophic proportions has engulfed the ordinary people of Afghanistan. Up to 8 million people face severe food shortages or starvation. Recent events come against backdrop of 4 years of drought and two decades of war. As the bitter Afghani winter approaches, Islamic Relief's emergency staff have joined the desperate race to pre-position supplies of food, water, blankets, tents and basic health care.

Inside Afghanistan, Islamic Relief's field staff stand ready to distribute what food stocks remain at their warehouses in Kandahar and Helmand. From offices in Islamabad and Quetta, Islamic Relief staff are also working around the clock to prepare for the overwhelming waves of refugees into Pakistan.

Fears that the political crisis is set to escalate, have sent shock waves through Afghanistan. 8 million Afghans are on the verge of starvation, more than half a million are already on the move, making for Iran and the ex-Soviet republics. A further million are heading for Pakistan – to areas which are already plagued by drought. At least 3.5 million already shelter as refugees in Iran and Pakistan and yet another 3

DISASTER



Haji Hab Dar with his son, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. © Adrian Sutton/Islamic Relief

million remain behind in their villages, too weak to flee.

With less than a month's supply of food left in the country, people are forced to reduce their consumption, trying to make dwindling stocks stretch further.

As Islamic Relief co-ordinates its emergency preparations with other aid agencies in Pakistan and London, we have been heartened by the efforts of Clare Short (Secretary of State for International Development) and her department, to keep the humanitarian agenda at the forefront

of the Government's agenda

The situation before the present crisis was already critical for millions of ordinary Afghans: a devastated infrastructure; an agricultural base reduced to zero, and livestock – for many the main stay of their livelihood – either sold, eaten or dead.

As contingency plans are being hastily drawn up, and as relief supplies are loaded into warehouses, the world waits in desperate unity, hoping that such a colossal disaster does not transform itself into the stuff of nightmares.

Islamic Relief has responded to a range of emergencies in Afghanistan. In 2001 it set up offices in Kandahar and Kabul and has been distributing food aid to the most severely effected victims of the drought in Helmand Province, South Afghanistan.

Until this time, rural people had been fleeing their drought-ravaged villages, only to add to the congested misery of the cities and camps. In taking food to some of the remotest and worst hit areas, Islamic Relief was able to help curb this rural exodus. In return, the able bodied of the beneficiaries undertook the clearing out of underground water channels thereby increasing the supply of water to their villages for the benefit of the whole community. So successful was this project that Islamic Relief signed an \$785,000 contract in August with the World Food Programme to distribute to a further 59,000 vulnerable people.