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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Partnership



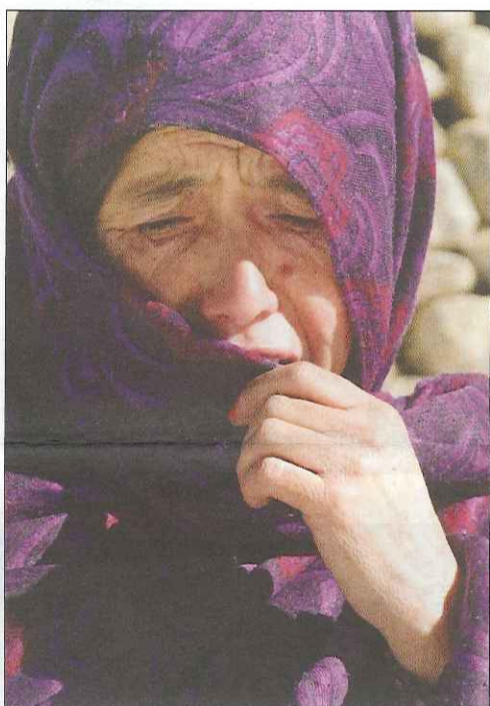
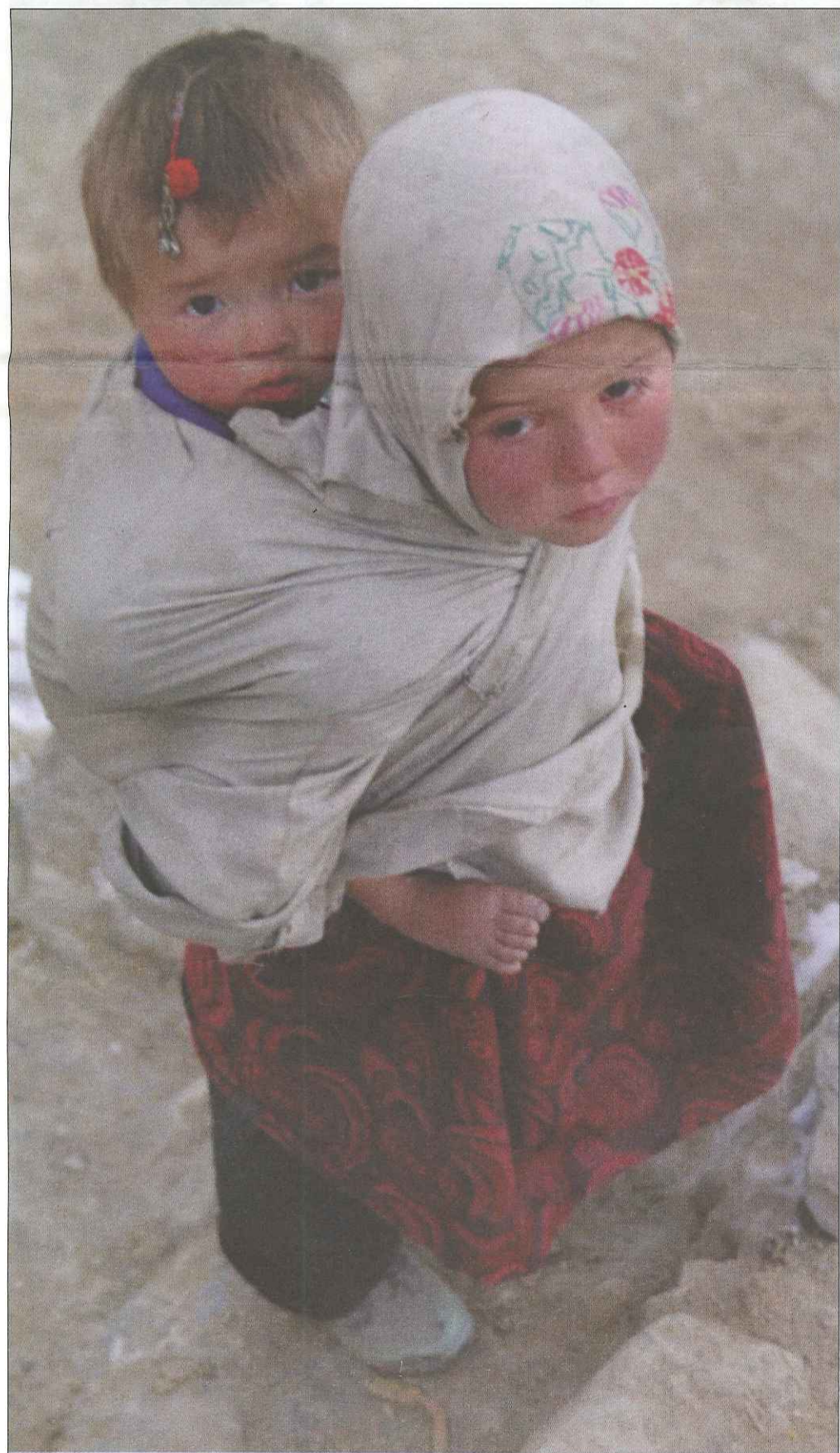
www.islamic-relief.com/uk

WITH THE NEEDY

UK Edition الإغاثة الإسلامية

Afghans struggle for peace

As Afghanistan emerges from the latest chapter of its turbulent history, Islamic Relief continues its tireless work, bringing vital relief supplies to those devastated by the recent crisis



Muhammad Imran
Emergency Relief Coordinator

22 years of war has all but destroyed Afghanistan's infrastructure. A fourth year of drought, the recent aerial bombardment and country-wide fighting have plunged Afghanistan into "the worst humanitarian crisis in the world". Over 3.5 million Afghans are refugees in neighbouring countries, whilst more than 1 million are feared to be displaced within Afghanistan. Through the winter months, Afghans have only restricted access to shelter, food, water and health

care. Millions continue to fend off starvation with food handouts. The task is immense. The new interim Administration, in partnership with the International Aid Community, face an enormous challenge in trying to bring stability to its impoverished people.

Over the last few years, Islamic Relief has responded to a range of emergencies in Afghanistan. In April 2001 it set up offices in Kandahar, Helmand and Kabul, going on to distribute food aid to some of the worst drought-affected people. This food-for-asset creation programme continued through to October 2001. Throughout the recent crisis Islamic Relief staff have remained on the ground, implementing a wide range of emergency programmes under the most arduous of conditions.

Since October 2001, Islamic Relief's emergency teams in Afghanistan and Pakistan have been engaged in emergency programmes totalling over £7.4 million, delivering over 22,400 Metric Tonnes of food aid to over 1 million vulnerable people. Thousands of tents, blankets, jerry cans and other non-food items continue to be delivered.

In January this year, Islamic Relief's Managing Director, Dr Hany El Banna and Afghanistan Country Representative, Sakandar Ali, completed a 2-week needs assessment trip of southern, central and northern Afghanistan. During this time, they met with Dr Abdullah Abdullah and other Government officials to discuss Islamic Relief's work and future plans. Dr Hany pledged to increase the capacity of the Afghan Mission on a large countrywide scale, contributing to the regeneration of Afghanistan.



Refugees at Spin Boldok camp

Old before their time: children trekking across the Panjsher valley ©Adrian Sutton/Islamic Relief