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FROK
REG CHARITY NO: 1095857

FROK: UK Friends of Khwendo Kor

REPORT No 2 ON FROK'S APPEAL FOR THE WAZIRISTAN EMERGENCY

SEED CORN FOR A LARGE HARVEST

The money raised by FROK's Waziristan Appeal has become "seed corn" for an unexpectedly large harvest. At a time when the army was asking NGOs to keep out of the area, other donors withdrew offers of funds. However KK had resources not available to other NGOs. As a result of its previous work in the Tribal Areas it had volunteer workers among the Waziri refugees themselves, and it had FROK's promise of funds. The supplies purchased with FROK's money were distributed by the Waziri workers and UNICEF noticed that one NGO was still able to work in the area. It invited KK to submit a proposal and the resulting project to provide protection for thousands of unaccompanied women and children is now well underway.

UNICEF BACKS WORK WITH IDPS

Split Families, Vulnerable Women and Children

Internal displacement splits up families and in a situation of armed conflict gender-based violence is common. An estimated 50,000 unaccompanied women and children among the IDPs were disadvantaged in seeking food, shelter and health care, while children faced additional threats including sexual abuse, trafficking and kidnapping. It is these dangers that KK is now confronting.

With UNICEF's funding, Khwendo Kor has recruited nearly 200 enumerators who work with community leaders to identify households headed by women and children. It hopes to register up to 30,000 across Districts Dera Ismail Khan

(DIK) and Tank.

Child Protection Centres

Simultaneously 36 Community-based Child Protection Centres (CPCs) are already being set up and 4 more planned, to provide education and recreation, legal and psychological counselling, group support and links with other services. KK will employ 10 monitors, 2 child protection workers and 1 psychologist for each CPC.

By the beginning of November, a large team under Shafiq ul Islam was working from KK's new office in DIK. Meetings had been held with local officials who expressed gratitude to KK for being "the only NGO to start work with women and children in the Southern Districts." They promised their support and to provide what protection they could to KK's workers.

CRISIS REPORT LENDS SUPPORT TO WORK OF KK

In a Report issued on Oct. 21st, the internationally respected Crisis Group stated:

"More than a million FATA residents already have been displaced by the conflict... While the military restricts domestic and international humanitarian access to FATA's conflict zones, neither the Pakistan government nor the international community has addressed the full costs of the conflict to civilians."

Among the Report's recommendations are

"donor-funded programs that.... include more representative and independent bodies such as national and NWFP-based NGOs with proven records of carrying out programs in FATA."

In other words, Khwendo Kor!

Right: Some of the staff working from the new office in Dera Ismail Khan



APPEAL—DONATIONS ARE STILL NEEDED:

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

You can donate by sending a cheque marked 'UK Friends of Khwendo Kor (Waziristan Emergency Appeal) to: Jonathan French, FROK Treasurer, 85 East Parade, York, YO31 7YD.

Or you can go to our 'Just Giving' site and donate on-line—

[www.justgiving.com/
WaziristanEmergencyAppeal](http://www.justgiving.com/WaziristanEmergencyAppeal).

Khalid Usman, KK's Director of Operations, spent several days in Dera Ismail Khan at the end of October to assess the situation. He tells us that the easy route out of Waziristan has been closed by the military, forcing the refugees to walk over difficult terrain for several days. By the time they arrive at the border of the Tribal Areas, small children and women are often ill, but cannot afford treatment.

There are too few registration points. Thousands queue but only hundreds are registered each day. Most of the IDPs are illiterate and do not speak Urdu, so they have no language in common with officials or service providers. The local population is scared and hostile because they regard Waziris from the Tribal Areas as foreigners and militants.

Khalid saw IDPs refusing to be interviewed by journalists, whom they blamed for the negative image of Waziristan, which they thought caused the hostility from local people. They complained that many refugees were stopped on the border and not allowed to enter Punjab because of fear they would spread militancy.

There are no official tented camps and many families end up living by the

Khalid Usman visited Registration Centres in Dera Ismail



and listened to the IDPs' concerns

roadside. This is particularly difficult for the women, as the Waziris observe a strict form of purdah. There is a shortage of food and no proper distribution centre because the government is still restricting most NGOs from working in the area.

Khalid emphasized the importance of advocacy to persuade the government to set up official camps and health centres, and allow national and international aid agencies into the area to provide food and other supplies.

.....After visiting refugees, Maryam Bibi wrote of....

“the pathetic conditions the children roaming around, eating things full of dust and drinking dirty water, young idle men with eyes full of anger, helplessness and distrust..... the hugeness of the

IDPs problem and how incapable we all, including the military, government and NGOs, are in dealing with it. I felt we all together are very small.”

Being Maryam, she added, “I need to go again to see the positiveness. Tomorrow I will be travelling to Dera Ismail Khan especially to meet IDP women and children.”

Please support Maryam's determination to continue the work and see the positive however large the problem.

FROK thanks the Maurice Fry Trust for a particularly generous donation of £1000 to the Appeal.

Please don't stop supporting the rest of KK's work—FROK is continuing to raise funds for this *alongside* the Waziristan Emergency Appeal.

KK has asked FROK to keep its appeal open to draw attention to the most marginalised casualties of the war and act again as “seed corn” for further funds. Those who fled across the border further north into FR Bannu are still not receiving any official help. This is an area where KK was the only women's NGO operating until it was forced to close its Bannu office earlier this year.

Working from Karak, KK has maintained its contacts in the area and is uniquely placed to help the Waziri refugees now there.