

September 2009



REPORT ON FROK'S APPEAL FOR THE WAZIRISTAN EMERGENCY

THANK YOU –

to all of you who responded so quickly and generously to our appeal for the Waziristan IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons). You have enabled us to send a first contribution of £2500 to KK to pay for emergency relief work and the planning of longer term support. KK selected one of the Waziristan IDPs to work alongside an experienced member of KK staff on assessing and meeting the most urgent needs and consulting with the refu-

gees on plans for the future.

Immediate Action

Khalid Usman (KK's Director of Programmes) wrote on August 25th

"Regarding the Waziristan IDPs, we are very much concerned and in action to support them by providing immediate relief in food and health items. The new person from Waziristan, Mr. Sabaz Ali Khan (recruited by KK as a focal person) has completed his assessment and has submitted his report and plan of action for relief activities. The plan has been approved and he will distribute the initial food and health material among 50 extended families (1900 IDPs) in the

districts of Karak and Bannu. This distribution will be completed by 3rd September 2009. Mr. Sabaz Ali will be sending pictures and stories of some of the IDP families"

FROK will share pictures and stories with you when we get them and try to keep you up-to-date with the difference your generosity is making in this emergency, which remains strangely unreported in the western media though US and UN officials are showing increasing concern over the possible effects of the IDP situation on the conflict in the area.

Already **UNICEF** has read of KK's work with the Waziri IDPs and requested a meeting with KK's Director of Programmes to discuss the situation.

A *Refugee International Report* on the situation in North West Pakistan, June 2009 stated that: 'Local organizations are a

critical part of the overall relief effort because they have in-depth knowledge of the environment and sustain programs over an extended period of time. From a financial perspective, they are also much more cost-efficient than international NGOs as their overheads are much lower'.



A woman using a fuel-efficient smokeless stove supplied by KK and FROK in the 2005 emergency



A medical camp for refugees run by KK in the 2005 emergency—similar ones are being planned

Maryam Bibi told us:

"We are very actively working for the Waziristan IDPs for whom no one else that I know is working. They are in the most miserable situation. We plan to buy things (medicine, dry food items, utensils) to be distributed"

FROK
REG CHARITY NO: 1095857

FROK: UK Friends of Khwendo Kor

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.

THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF KK'S WORK

On 28th July, Richard Holbrooke, the US special envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan, said of the refugee crisis in North West Pakistan:

“This is more than a humanitarian crisis. This is a strategic issue as well. Those refugees are in the exact area where al-Qaeda and the Taliban are and it's right up against the Afghan border....In order to succeed in Afghanistan we have to have some degree of control and stability on the Pakistan side of the border....Right now refugee relief assistance in Pakistan is the most important issue.”

Maryam Bibi gave some evidence of the correctness of this approach when she wrote at the end of August:

“There is a positive development. The tribal people who became IDPs in massive numbers and are faced with numerous problems are increasingly turning against the Taliban. More and more people are contacting us for help and one clever young Wazir man has said they are organising a volunteer group of young

Wazirs from FR Bannu to take responsibility for IDP records and relief distribution.”

Khalid Usman, KKs Director of Programmes, estimates there 100,000 IDPs from Waziristan, from an area where KK have been working for the past 4 years and running 14 community-based schools, all now closed. They have not been given proper status so have no facilities except for very small spaces in govt-owned buildings. They face active resistance wherever they seek refuge because of fear of Talibanization

Maryam Bibi writes:



A KK women's group in a 2005 refugee camp

I also visited three tents and talked to men and women. The heat was unbearable and it felt as if we were standing in a heated oven. Small children were lying exhausted on hot floors covered with plastic mats. Their heads were covered with wet pieces of cloth to protect them from heat. Women are restricted to their own tents. Report by Maryam Bibi on a visit to a camp for refugees from Bajaur (also a Tribal Area) in July 2009.

For the Waziri refugees in the Karak desert (below), the heat is worse and there are no tents or clean water.



LONG TERM PLANS

We will keep you informed as KK makes longer term plans for health, education and advocacy for the IDPs, both while they remain in Karak and Bannu and when they return to Waziristan.

The pictures in this Newsletter are of the relief work KK undertook with FROK's help in the earth-

quake area in 2005.

Your continuing support should enable KK to provide similar schooling, medical camps and women's support groups for these 2009 refugees.

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