BADA BER REFUGEES CAMP

AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN
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BADABER REFUGEE CAMP.

The population of Afghanistan is estimated to be 15/20 million spread over an area of 253861 square miles having 1500 miles Common border with Pakistan.

With the beginning of the nightmare in Afghanistan, followed by the Political, Social, Cultural and Religious suppression coupled with ruthless attitude of Kabul Administration and the Alien forces which created an atmosphere of complete insecurity and general scare forced the Afghan Nationals to migrate and seek refuge in Pakistan.

The first batch of Afghan refugees which crossed over to Pakistan in 1976 (during Daud's Regime) was 1,500. This number rose to 18,329 by the end of December 1978. Afterwards the trickle developed into a torrent and by 30th September 1981 the number rose to 1887640 in the N. W. F. P.

To accommodate and provide basic relief items on purely humanitarian grounds, the Government of Pakistan established a number of refugee camps along the 1500 miles long Pak-Afghan Border.

Badaber is one of the biggest and thickly populated refugee camp in the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan.
It is located 10 Kilometers South West of the Provincial Capital Peshawar on Kohat Road. Badaber Refugee Camp consists of five Refugee Tentage Village having a total population of 29012 registered individuals as on 30th September, 1981.

Badaber Refugee Camp was established in February 1980 when the inflow of refugees from Afghanistan assumed alarming proportion. From 10,000 in February 1980, the number has shot up to 29012 in September 1981. The increase in population in Badaber Camp is shown in the chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>TOTAL POPULATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1980</td>
<td>4,487</td>
<td>5,513</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1980</td>
<td>4,154</td>
<td>4,107</td>
<td>8,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1980</td>
<td>12,615</td>
<td>12,313</td>
<td>24,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1981</td>
<td>13,045</td>
<td>14,532</td>
<td>27,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1981</td>
<td>13,521</td>
<td>15,491</td>
<td>29,012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To facilitate proper administration and speedy distribution of relief assistance five RTV's (Refugees Tentage Villages) have been established in the camp. Each RTV constitute the basic administrative unit looking after a minimum of 5000 Refugees or 1000 families. An RTV is placed under the RTV Administrator who is responsible in all respects for the Administration, Welfare, Discipline, Distribution of Cash Maintenance Allow—
ance and other relief items, etc., of refugees in the RTV.

The RTV Administrator is assisted by the staff working under him which consists of six sections, viz, Admn. Section, Registration Section, Food Section, Relief Section, Accounts Section and Security Section.

ETHNIC COMPLEXION OF THE CAMP.

The Afghan Refugees have come from different provinces of Afghanistan and the main tribal grouping are Nooristani, Tajiks, Mishwanis, Salarzai, Kohistani, Gujars, Badakshi, Safi, Ahmedzai, Shinwari, Mamund, Mohmand, Khogiani, Ghilgai, Hazara, Mangal, Jaji, Zadran, Sabri Suleman Khel, Qandaharis, Uzbeks and Turkmen. In this particular camp the refugees are from the Pushto speaking tribes of Afghanistan in the proportion explained below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>TRIBE</th>
<th>PROVINCE</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Ahmed Zai</td>
<td>Puktia</td>
<td>13275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Mohmand</td>
<td>Nangarhar</td>
<td>4230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Tajak</td>
<td>Parwan</td>
<td>3553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Maroof Khel</td>
<td>Nangarhar</td>
<td>3132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Khugiani</td>
<td>Nangarhar</td>
<td>2051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Stanazai</td>
<td>Lugar</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Quresh</td>
<td>Nangarhar</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Wardag</td>
<td>Wardag</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Jabar Khel</td>
<td>Nangarhar</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Salar Zai</td>
<td>Nangarhar</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Nooristani</td>
<td>Nooristan</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Being in the Refugee Camps in Pakistan, the refugees still observe their own traditional laws and implement them through the Jirga System. The decisions made in Jirga by the elders of the tribes are acceptable to all.

RELIEF ASSISTANCE.

During the initial stages of refugees influx, relief assistance consisted mainly of cash subsidy (Rs. 120.00 per head per month) and provision of tents for shelter and only the Government of Pakistan bore the burden of refugees care single handed during this period. In the beginning of 1980, two major U. N. Agencies, the UNHCR and W. F. P., produced their programme...
of assistance. Later, some other U. N. Agencies like UNICEF, WHO & FAO also joined and are providing assistance in their respective fields. The relief operations have received additional contribution from some of the international Voluntary Agencies and a number of friendly countries. The main financial assistance has been provided by the UNHCR whose representatives work in the entire province and co-ordinate with the functionaries of the Commissionerate at various levels.

The relief assistance may be categorised as under:

1. CASH MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE.

Cash maintenance allowance @ Rs. 50/- per head per month upto the maximum of Rs. 500/- per family is distributed from the Budget of Government of Pakistan.

2. SHELTER.

The UNHCR is providing shelter in the form of tents, tarpaulins, CGI Sheets and other construction material for temporary mud huts. One tent of 180 Lbs. accommodate 5 to 7 persons. Temporary mud huts are encouraged to avoid the rigours of extreme weather.
3. FOOD.

The World Food Programme is providing basic food rations like wheat, Dried Skimmed Milk, Edible Oil and Pulses (when available). The UNHCR provides supplement food items like Sugar and Tea which are not covered by W. F. P. Daily per capita scales of rations supplied are wheat 500 grams per head per day, pulses 40 grams, E/Oil 30 grams. Dried Skimmed Milk 30 grams, Sugar 20 grams, Tea 3 grams, Salt $2\frac{1}{2}$ grams per head per day.
4. CLOTHING AND BEDDING.

Unstitched cloth and used clothing and foot-wear at the scale of one pair per head and one blanket or quilt per individual is also provided by the UNHCR.

5. MEDICARE.
MEDICARE

Although the Government assisted by UNHCR is looking after medical establishments, essential medicines and medical equipment, etc., there are number of Voluntary Organizations also engaged in this field. In Badaber Camp the ‘Save the Children Fund’ of London has established three well equipped dispensaries besides Mobile Health Units staffed by male and lady doctors with allied technical staff for treatment of refugees. Cases of mild disease are treated at the static dispensaries located at the camp while serious cases are referred to the big hospitals in Peshawar.

6. DRINKING WATER.

Drinking Water Schemes are undertaken by UNICEF through relevant Provincial Departments. Water tankers have been engaged for this purpose, besides tube-wells and open surface wells, etc.
7. EDUCATION.

The Badaber Camp has been provided with eight Primary Schools for Afghan Children. Three teachers for each school (one Pakistani and two Afghan) with sufficient stationery, text books, etc., have been provided. The total number of students at the moment is 896. Besides, Primary Schools at least one Religious Teacher from amongst the Afghans is also provided for each village along with necessary material in the Central Mosque of the Village. The Education Cell headed by the Additional Commissioner of Afghan Refugees Commissionerate is looking after the Primary education of Afghan Refugees' Children.
8. **LIVE STOCK.**

Other items not covered above are the live-stock and Veterinary cover, Hygiene and Sanitation which includes sanitary Inspector with necessary spraying equipment and chemicals for periodical spray.

9. **MOSQUES.**

Two mosques in each village have been set up to facilitate the refugees in the performance of their religious obligations.

10. **SELF RELIANCE SCHEMES.**

With the courtesy of S. I. D. B., a Community Centre has been set up in the Badaber Camp for training the refugees with different skills to enable them to earn their own living. The fields of training are Shoe making, Black Smithery, Tailoring and Carpentry.
11. COOKING OIL STOVE, AND KEROSENE OIL.

To save the forest wealth, each Refugee family has been supplied with one oil Stove, one plastic container of 10 liters each. They are also provided with 9 liters of Kerosene oil per family per month. The funds for the project have been provided by the UNHCR.
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