

Afghanistan Relief Organization Relief distribution in Kalafgan, Takhar Province, Afghanistan

Distribution period:

August 30 – September 4, 2006



(Photo by Claudio Angelini, 2005)

Geographical area of distribution:

The Takhar Province is located in the northeast region of Afghanistan, near the countries of Tajikistan, China, India and Pakistan, and in Afghanistan, bordering the province of Kunduz, Baghlan, Panjsher and Badakhshan. Takhar includes the districts of Bangi, Chah Ab, Chal, Darqad, Farkhar, Ishkamish, Kalafgan, Khwaja Ghar, Rustaq, Taluqan, Warsaj, and Yangi Qala.

The remote and mountainous Takhar province has reduced access to other parts of the country, poor economy, unpaved roads, limited electric or other infrastructure, harsh weather conditions, drug trafficking, and relative inaccessibility to basic supplies, commerce, and regular communications. The UNDP Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) program main phase began in Takhar in June 2006.

Ethnic demographics:

Takhar is home to Tajiks, Uzbeks, and Turkmen, fluent in Dari, Pashtu, Tajik, Turkmeni, and Uzbek.



ARO relief team members:

The ARO-Kabul relief team was headed by ARO's chairman, Abul Khalili (second from left), Nur-EI-Haq, Hashmat, and Naim. On this same relief trip, the ARO-Kabul team distributed supplies to the Badakhshan province.

Duration of trip:

One week (21 hours travel time each way from Kabul, three days in the region distributing aid).

Cost of trip:

Approximately \$1,420.00(US). This includes \$1,000.00(US) for truck rental, \$110.00(US) for fuel, and \$310.00(US) for food and lodging for the relief team.

Route to Badakhshan:

The relief team passed through Parwan, Pul-e-Khumri, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces without incident.

**General details:**

Relief supplies were transported by large truck (rental), and followed by key ARO staff. Takhar is around 175 km from Kabul, which equates to two days travel each way. The relief team traveled nine (9) hours the first day on the Taloqan-Badakhshan Road. The region is physically remote and roadways are not paved (dirt roads), making the travel challenging and fatiguing.

The relief team spent the first night along the road, although they were able to stay at a government guesthouse in Faizabad, Badakhshan, after the Takhar distribution.



The relief team documented distributions with video and photography.

List of relief supplies distributed:

Approximately 196 boxes (estimated weight 6,000 to 7,000 lbs) of relief aid were trucked to Takhar and Badakhshan provinces for distribution by ARO, including:

Winter clothing and footwear for men, women and children

Over one thousand winter coats were donated to the Afghanistan Relief Organization by a clothing distributor in Los Angeles, California, **Kaiser & Associates**, with only slight rain damage from heavy Southern California rains in 2005. Volunteers professionally laundered all the coats, sorting out any that might be considered unacceptable. Also, the California-based non profit organization **Afghans for Afghans**, www.afghansforafghans.org, donated hand-knit hats, sweaters and socks produced for winter relief by American knitters from around the country. Also included were men's and women's shoes, donated from various sources.

Blankets and bedding

Donated by the Southern California **Ayres Hotel** chain, www.ayreshotels.com, high quality blankets and sheets were distributed for winter relief. Ayres Hotels delivered these donations to ARO, and assisted in their packing. Additional new blankets in original packaging were donated by Southern California volunteers.

School supplies

ARO airlifted close to 6,000 lbs of school supplies in the 2006 airlift, all of which were donated by Southern Californians. General school supplies are always in high demand and have been included in every ARO relief distribution. Children received basic school supplies, such as pencils, notebooks, markers and paper.

Additional information:

Satellite image of Takhar region, <http://www.maplandia.com/afghanistan/takhar/>.



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