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KHORASAN
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1081438

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Khorasan is Needed

During the last two decades of war in Afghanistan there has been unsettlement in many different ways. Out of an estimated total population of 17 million, more than 1.5 million have lost their lives in the war and a further 3 million have been displaced, most of them fleeing to neighbouring Pakistan and Iran.

Although the government of Afghanistan has been recognised by only three countries, it remains in power and continues to rule with limited resources and opposition from internal and external sources.

A disproportionate amount of government spending goes towards maintaining the army. With economic sanctions imposed by the West, it does not have sufficient resources to provide for the needy population and vulnerable groups like the elderly, children and women.

With an estimated 30 million ground mine placed by the old Communist regime and its Russian allies, it is impossible to do much agricultural work. Sustainable industrial activities are almost non-existent and existing resources are not being utilised effectively.

Many families have lost their men, the main breadwinners, during the last two decades. These families are mostly supported by relatives and often need to supplement their income by sending the children on to the streets to beg. It is

almost impossible for women to find formal employment due to the new fundamental regulation by the Taliban government whereby women are not allowed to study, work or even be seen on the street without being accompanied by a man.

The number of children that have either lost one or both parents has risen. Studies at the end of 1989 showed that there were approximately 137,211 children registered as orphans with the Afghan government opposition parties (Mujahideen) in Pakistan. This study by Naafe (Orphan in Islamic Society, 1989) also claimed that thousands of unregistered orphans exist. According to Rashid (Taliban, Islam, Oil and the New Great Game in Central Asia, 2000) a further 25,000 widowed women were registered in Kabul alone, most of whom have children to provide for.

Western aid agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGO) have been limited in the meaningful work that they can do in Afghanistan. Khorasan has therefore decided to start a number of projects in the area to provide some support to the vulnerable groups. ❖

Note: The meaning of Khorasan in Farsi is 'the land of the sun'. Khorasan is also one of the old names for Afghanistan.

Aims and Objectives of Khorasan

The objectives of the Charity are to relieve need and sickness amongst Afghan refugees of Afghanistan, mainly children and women, particularly by the provision of health aid and advice and the provision of accommodation and education for orphans of the Afghan war.

Khorasan Constitution

The Khorasan organisation has many objectives relating to the interests of children and women in need.

The organisation has so far achieved one of its goals, which is providing free healthcare for women and children in need. This has been achieved through the Khorasan clinic based in Peshawar, Pakistan.

The creation of Khorasan House, the orphanage, is another primary objective that the organisation hopes to achieve when sufficient funding has been raised.

This project will hopefully be started by the end of the year 2000, and will also be based in Peshawar.

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