NASIR BAGH REFUGEE CAMP

AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN
NASIR BAGH REFUGEE CAMP
The flight of the courageous Afghan People from their homes is a natural phenomenon. The Soviet Sponsored revolutions in Afghanistan with the direct soviet armed intervention compelled the people of Afghanistan to migrate and seek refuge in Pakistan. The Political, Social, Cultural and religious Supression coupled with ruthless attitude of Kabul Administration and the Alien forces created an atmosphere of complete insecurity and general scare and it become impossible for them to stay in their homeland.

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.

Nasir Bagh is one of the biggest and thickly populated refugee camp in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. It is located 10 Kilometers North West of the Provincial Capital Peshawar on off Jamrud Road along the Warsak Cannal. Nasir Bagh refugee camp consists of Two Refugee Tentage Villages having a total Population of 12,322 registered individuals as on 30th September 1981.
Nasir Bagh Refugee camp was established in February 1980 when the inflow of refugees from Afghanistan assumed alarming proportion. From 8000 in February 1980, the number has gone up-to 12,322 in September 1981. The increase in population in Nasir Bagh camp is shown in the Chart below:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1980</td>
<td>3387</td>
<td>4613</td>
<td>8000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1980</td>
<td>2991</td>
<td>4613</td>
<td>7604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1980</td>
<td>5573</td>
<td>6708</td>
<td>12281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1981</td>
<td>5557</td>
<td>6708</td>
<td>12264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1981</td>
<td>5611</td>
<td>6711</td>
<td>12322</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To facilitate proper administration and speedy distribution of their assistance, Two 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 allowance 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 section viz, Administration Section, Registration
Section, Food Section, Relief section, Accounts section and security section.

ETHNIC COMPLEXION OF THE CAMP

The Afghan Refugees are not only confined to the border Provinces or tribes of their country but they have also come from the far off Provinces of Afghanistan and includes Hazara, Tajiks, Uzbeks and others. In this particular camp the Refugees are from the Pushto speaking tribe 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>Khugiani</td>
<td>Nangarhar</td>
<td>1,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Jabbar Khel</td>
<td>Nangarhar</td>
<td>9,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Ahmed Zai</td>
<td>Kabul</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Being in the 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 UN 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 relief assistance may be categorised as under :-
CASH MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Cash maintenance allowance of Rs. 50/- per head per month upto the maximum of Rs. 500/- per family is distributed from the budget of Government of Pakistan.
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.
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. 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 2½ grams per head per day.

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.
MEDICARE

Although the Government assisted by UNHCR is looking after Medical establishments, essential medicines and medical equipment etc, there are a number of voluntary organizations also engaged in this field. In Nasir Bagh Camp the 'Saudi Red Cresent' has established two well equipped dispensaries besides moblie 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 hospital in Peshawar.

DRINKING WATER

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

The Nasir Bagh Camp has been provided with four Primary Schools for Afghan Children (Two schools per village) Two teachers for each school with sufficient stationary, text books etc, have been provided. Most of the teachers are Afghans. The total number of students at the moment is 436. 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 the Afghan Refugee Children.
LIVE-STOCK

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

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