

**CASE STUDIES (names have been changed)**

Amnesty International - 'Fleeing War, Finding Misery: The plight of the internally displaced in Afghanistan'
Under embargo to 23 February 05.30 GMT / 10.00 Kabul time – Please see below for contact information

Fatima, a woman in her late 20s, lives in Kabul's Chaman-e-Babarak slum area.

Fatima lives in a crude shelter made from torn plastic sheeting stretched over poles that are set into mud walls about one metre in height. During the rainy winter months, the dirt floor becomes very soggy, and she and her family huddle in blankets to protect themselves from the cold and damp.

"I had to build all these walls. . . . I gathered the mud and brought it here to build these walls. When it's raining, then all the rain comes down with the rainwater." "I'm not a professional builder, so I don't know what materials I can use...I didn't learn how to build to prevent the water from entering the house."

"This child here has a chest infection. We bought some medication at a shop, but the medication is not effective. We just have to let whatever happens happen to her."

With almost no income, the family cannot afford to pay for the additional health care the child needs.

"It costs between 400 and 500 Afghanis [US\$8.35 to \$10.40] when a child is sick. We have to pay at least 150 [\$3.15] for the doctor's fee," There are some private clinics nearby, but the members of the community do not go to them because the fees would be over 1,000 Afghanis (\$21).

"Of course, there are government clinics, but the problem is that they are overcrowded and people are lining up to wait for care. You can spend days lining up."

"There is a tanker that brings us (the community) water. We have to pay 10 Afghanis [\$0.20] per gallon to buy it. Now it is four to five gallons per day that we are using because of the children. Cleaning, washing, everything needs water. Of course it's not enough."

Asked what she would say to the Afghan government if she had the chance, she replied:

"I don't know which problem I should talk about – school, unemployment, not having proper housing, food, health – when my children are getting sick and I have to pay for the doctor and medications. It's everything."

"The first thing I would ask [the government] would be to give us a piece of land. Even if I build something like this, I will be in my own home. . . . If I live in my own home, my dignity is preserved."

Zarin, a 70-year-old woman, came to Kabul in February 2012 from Marjah, in Helmand province.

"We had to walk all the way from Marjah to Lashkar Gah in dark of night. I came with my entire family of nine members; my husband, sons, daughters and grandchildren all came."

"The Americans and the government told us to leave the area before they wanted to attack Marjah, so people started leaving the area before the offensive started. But soon this move was stopped by the Taleban and they did not allow the civilians to leave the area. The Taleban also told people that the foreign forces will come and rape our women and girls."

"As the fighting started, people wanted to leave but the Taleban planted too many land mines everywhere and many people were killed and injured by the landmines. Then we had to leave the area in the dark of night with the fear of the Taleban seeing us.. We were too tired and exhausted, we were hungry and thirsty and we had no shoes. We stayed only two nights in Helmand and then we heard that Taleban are identifying people who left the area, so we had to leave again and come all the way to Kabul."

"Since we came there is no assistance or anything; the family has not eaten anything for the past two days, and only some families in the makeshift are sharing their food with us as we try to feed the children first. We are displaced and we have lost all our livelihoods and no one is fulfilling their promises to assist us in this situation."

Aid: In communities in and around Kabul, residents describe the aid they receive as irregular and ineffective

"Some cooking oil and a few bags of flour—these things won't solve our problems," Jamshid, living in Chaman-e-Babarak. "We ask, train our children; help them to learn a profession... One can of oil, one bag of flour only helps us for three or four days."

"My first question is where is all the money going? We haven't seen that. We don't know where all that international aid is going to. We don't know why the government isn't able to provide us with basic shelter," Yahya, also in Chaman-e-Babarak

International forces led an offensive against Taleban fighters in Marjah town, Helmand province, in early 2010.

Ajmal Khan, 35 and father to five children, from Sangeen district of Helmand province, said:

"Taleban were coming to our village, retreating from an area where they had been shooting on international forces. Aircraft started bombarding the people..I don't know what we have done wrong, because the Taleban are killing us, and the government and international forces are killing us too. It's been about four months since we moved to Kabul. I had sheep and cows. I don't know where they are and what happened to them. I was able to escape and only take my family with me."

Wali Shah, also from Sangeen district, told Amnesty International in February 2010:

"The Taleban and government were fighting, but they were killing the innocent people. It is about two months that we are displaced from Helmand to Kabul. My shop, my home, and my animals, all were lost in the fighting."

"When we were in Helmand, we were in a bad situation because when the Taleban were taking control of our area, they were forcing us to fight with them against the government, and when the government was taking control, forcing us to fight Taleban. This is why we finally decided to leave Helmand and end this problem forever."

"What should we do? If I go back, Taleban will force us to fight, just as they are doing to many people there. If I stay, I will have to witness the death of my children from the cold and hunger. I don't know what to do."

There are between 57-80 families living in a slum area in Kart-e-Parwan, near Kabul (?)

"We are miserable here," said one woman in Kart-e-Parwan, "The men are working in the market, and the money they get for their labour is not sufficient to feed the family."

"We are not living here; we are surviving here. As you can see, we don't have decent shelter, we don't have water, we don't have enough food."

In Chaman-e-Babarak, a settlement near Kabul, the community are at threat of forced eviction.

"When we were refugees in Pakistan, we had everything we needed. We heard that things were better in Afghanistan, and we thought maybe if we returned, life here could be good," said Shajan a woman in her late 40s.

"[Land is] what we are requesting for years. Please raise our voice to the Afghan government. Deal with this problem. Give us a piece of land. We are dignified people," woman in Chaman-e-Babarak, Kabul, August 2010

Bareekaab, 10km outside of Bagram is far from employment opportunities, health clinics or schools

The government has set aside land in Bareekaab, 10 km outside of Bagram, for some displaced and returnee refugees families now living in Kabul, in the areas of Chaman-e-Babarak and Charahi Qamber. The site is an hour and a half from the centre of Kabul, and has no electricity. Children haul water in buckets from more than three km away. A temporary health clinic for the site is open one day a week for a few hours.

"If a pregnant woman has difficulties during the night, we hope that she survives until the morning. If she's still alive, we take her to the hospital in Bagram," said a woman in Bareekaab.

"If we go by car, it will be one and a half hours' drive because the area is so remote. I would have to come for work to Kabul. The transport costs for every day will be at least 200 Afghanis [\$4.15]," Yahya, a man living in Chaman-e-Babarak.

Interviews with case studies are available –

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