

AFGHAN LINKS

ISSUE – 21 – 6th June 2005 (TOTAL NO. 30)

Afghan Links is a free newsletter for readers who have a keen interest in Afghanistan, its history, people and culture. It invites news and articles from anyone who wishes to create and maintain constructive links between Afghanistan and other countries by sharing their expertise, information and ideas in any field.

CONTENTS home

ACBAR PRESS STATEMENT

ACBAR Condemns Attack On Mosque

[page 2](#)

CODE OF CONDUCT

- **The full text of the NGO Code of Conduct** [page 2](#)
- **Statement Of The Special Representative Of The Secretary General Of The United Nations For Afghanistan At The Launch Of The NGO Code Of Conduct** [page 2](#)

CONFERENCE CENTRE

Transformation Of The Khyber Rasturant Into MOF's Khyber Conference Hall – A New Training Center!

[page 3](#)

DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION (DDR)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – New Report Uncovers Serious problems undermining Japan-sponsored Disarmament Program for Afghan Militia Forces

[page 3](#)

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANISATION (ECO)

First Mission to Afghanistan in First Week of June 2005 and ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry Trade Fair

[page 5](#)

FUNDING

BOND – Funding News – June 2005

[page 6](#)

JOB VACANCIES

- **Shevolution Urgently Require a Gender/Development Specialist, Afghanistan** [page 7](#)
- **British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG) Require a Project Manager** [page 7](#)

NATO

NATO-GCSP Conference - New Approaches to Civil-Military Relations: Strategies and Practices

[page 8](#)

POVERTY

- **Global Call to Action Against Poverty** [page 8](#)
- **Launch of the Grow Up Free From Poverty Coalition Report with Hilary Benn** [page 9](#)

SECURITY

New CrisisWatch bulletin from the International Crisis Group

[page 9](#)

UNHCR

Angelina Jolie Donates 1 million dollars to Help Afghan Refugees

[page 10](#)

ACBAR PRESS STATEMENT

ACBAR Condemns Attack On Mosque



ACBAR CONDEMNS ATTACK ON MOSQUE

ACBAR expresses, on behalf of its membership, its feelings of shock and outrage over the cowardly attack yesterday in the Abdul Rab Akhунzada which has left 20 dead and over 50 wounded.

The fact that this attack was carried out in a mosque, during the memorial service for Maulawi Abdullah Fayaz, murdered two days ago makes this act even more reprehensible.

ACBAR condemns this act in the strongest possible manner.

ACBAR likes to express its solidarity with the people of Kandahar and convey its sympathy to the friends and relatives of the victims of this horrendous attack. It is convinced that the Afghan people will continue to stand firm against all acts of violence targeting innocent people.

ACBAR asks the international community and the Afghan government to step up the international community to double their efforts to create a secure environment for ordinary Afghans to live a normal life.

Source: Acbar information office 2nd June 2005.

[home](#)

CODE OF CONDUCT

- **The full text of the NGO Code of Conduct**

Please see attachment 1.21 for the NGO Code of Conduct.

[home](#)

- **Statement Of The Special Representative Of The Secretary General Of The United Nations For Afghanistan At The Launch Of The NGO Code Of Conduct**

UNAMA and the family of UN agencies warmly congratulate Afghan and international NGOs on the launch of their Code of Conduct. It sets very high standards that are relevant not only to NGOs but to the aid community at large. It should be broadcast far and wide and will boost popular confidence in what all of us are trying to achieve in Afghanistan.

There is no doubt that the reconstruction effort needs more transparency and accountability, from everyone. In the past three years, in the rush to try and deliver the peace dividends that the Bonn agreement called for, and to address the dramatic social and economic deficit the country suffers from, some basic requirements were sometimes overshadowed and some important lines were blurred, helped by a persistent legal and policy vacuum.

Together with the upcoming NGO legislation, the Code of Conduct paves the way for what should be a new and better framework for reconstruction, in which the respective roles of NGOs, the private sector and government entities are clearly defined, regulated and monitored. It should be supplemented with the lessons that have been learned regarding the functions of PRTs in the area of reconstruction.

This effort will not only benefit the NGO community. It will enable the reconstruction process in Afghanistan to retain a feature essential to its success: drawing on the goodwill, the expertise, knowledge and comparative advantages of the widest possible gamut of individuals and organizations – civilians and military, Afghans and foreigners, public, private and NGOs sectors. The NGO community has been a pillar of Afghanistan's survival in the past two decades, with which the UN has worked very closely and which the UN is proud to call a partner. Today's

initiative can only make this partnership stronger, and establish Afghan civil society even more firmly as a key actor in the rebuilding of its country. Kabul, 30 May 2005. [home](#)

CONFERENCE CENTRE

Transformation Of The Khyber Rasturant Into MOF's Khyber Conference Hall – A New Training Center!

**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Finance**

News Media Advisory

Ministry of Finance, Khyber Conference Hall - Pleased to announce the transformation of the Khyber Restaurant into MoF's Khyber Conference Hall – a new Training Center!

The opening of the **KHYBER CONFERENCE HALL** is finally here!

With all the improvements going on at the Ministry of Finance to meet the financial demands of the country, the icing on the cake is certainly the **KHYBER CONFERENCE HALL**. Enable with a sizable grant from the UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID), this needed training center is certainly a very impressive addition to the ministry.

Built by Imtiaz Construction Company, Ltd., a conglomerate of Afghan companies, the **KHYBER CONFERENCE HALL** is equipped with the very latest in media, lighting, sound and wireless translation technologies. It has a capacity for approximately 200 participants, and is scheduled for its first five-day training seminar next week. It also offers a dining and all the amenities for participants.

This is an ideal facility to aid to the Ministry's capacity building efforts.

Congratulations to the ministry on this new development and thanks USAID and the National Ministry Liaison Team for making it possible.

Contacts

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[home](#)

DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION (DDR)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – New Report Uncovers Serious problems undermining Japan-sponsored Disarmament Program for Afghan Militia Forces

Rearmament in Afghanistan?

The Japanese government-sponsored Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program in Afghanistan may in fact be a case of Disarmament Demobilization and *Rearmament*, according to a new report published this week. From a distance, judging by the impressive figures released by the UN's Afghan New Beginnings Program (ANBP), it may seem that significant progress is indeed being made in the Afghan DDR process. The latest figures from ANBP state that since October 2003, 58,496 soldiers have been disarmed and 48,605 of these have passed through the program for Reintegration. However, as the new report reveals, the reality of the situation is far more worrying and complex than these figures suggest.

Following the fall of the Taliban in 2001, Japan was amongst many high profile international donors that rushed to support initiatives to build a new and lasting peace in Afghanistan. But three and a half years on, the peace-building process continues to be hampered by a chronic lack of security. As drug-trafficking, kidnapping and robbery continue to flourish, it is apparent that the international community must rejuvenate its support for the reform of the security sector in Afghanistan.

The report identifies two fundamental problems underlying the DDR Program. Firstly, the disarmament program has failed to address the numerous middle and lower-ranking commanders

who possess considerable power across the country at a local level. Many have sought to retain their power by stockpiling weapons or otherwise subverting the program. This was clearly exhibited earlier this month, when a massive weapons stockpile – belonging to a supposedly disarmed commander – exploded by accident, killing 28 people and injuring over 70 in Bagjah, Baghlan.

The power networks of these low-ranking commanders are further perpetuated by international actors who hire security staff directly from the commanders, rather than through a system legitimized by the national government. “The DDR Program has not enabled independent Afghan institutions to step in to fill the security gap. Instead, the local Commander has consolidated his position, and his influence over local communities” (Christian Dennys, author of the report).

Secondly, the report cites specific evidence highlighting the fact that the Reintegration program has focused too much on individuals. No one seems to have accounted for how this assistance would effect local economies, environments or social structures, including the effect upon women.

The report identifies seven specific policy recommendations, calling on international donors and DDR policy-makers to re-evaluate their approach in a more nuanced and thorough perspective for the looming Disarmament of Illegally Armed Groups (DIAG) Programme. As everybody agrees, the consequences of failure will be grave indeed.

Policy Recommendations

For the remainder of the reintegration phase of the DDR Programme:

1. From all actors involved there needs to be a much greater effort to deliver the packages to the disarmed soldiers more quickly.
2. Donors must push for monitoring of the long-term effects with a view to supporting the participants once the programme finishes because many of the Reintegration packages are weak and there is growing anger among the participants and their communities. This is predisposing people to anti-government and criminal activities.

For the security sector:

1. The Afghan Government must initiate a government backed programme stipulating that all security guards must come from a known source, such as a government sponsored Department of Security Guards. This would allow companies to ensure they are only paying for the guards they need, permit government taxation on the sector and ensure that commanders linked to criminal activities are not also benefiting from legitimate commercial and reconstruction activities.
2. The Coalition must stop its policy of hiring soldiers from local commanders and warlords.

For the DIAG:

1. Disarmament of illegally armed groups should focus on securing communities before commencing disarmament; otherwise widespread resistance could be expected.
2. The EU sponsored concept of ‘Secure Communities’ would be a more effective and less disruptive way of tackling the problem of illegally armed groups and should be developed further.
3. The database of illegal groups should not be used as the key-planning tool for tackling the problem of illegally armed groups. It is not detailed enough. A subtler national mapping of local security and politics is required.

Please see attachment 2.21 for the report or go to

<http://www.jca.apc.org/~jann/Documents/Disarmament%20demobilization%20rearmament.pdf>

Source: Sent to Afghanlinks by the author of the report Christian Dennys, Research and Policy Adviser, Japan Afghan NGO Network (JANN) chris@ngo-jvc.net +81 (0) 3 3834 2388.
The report is published through the Japan Afghan NGO Network (NG) as part of their ad hoc series. The opinions put forth in the report do not necessarily reflect the opinion of JANN members. [home](#)

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANISATION (ECO)

First Mission to Afghanistan in First Week of June 2005 and ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry Trade Fair

The First Mission to Afghanistan

The First ECO Secretariat's Mission to Afghanistan to follow up the implementation of ECO Special Fund for Reconstruction of Afghanistan including on-going feasibility studies being prepared by ECO-CEC, will take place on **1st week of June, 2005, in Kabul**, Afghanistan on the sidelines of ECO-CCI Trade Fair which is going to be held on the same dates.

During the First Mission to Afghanistan, Representatives of the ECO Secretariat are expected to call on high level dignitaries and other Officials to discuss rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Afghanistan.

ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI) Trade Fair

ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CCI) Trade Fair is scheduled to be held on August 28, 2005 in Kabul, Afghanistan. Member States and their National Chambers of Commerce and Industry are expected to actively participate in the said Trade Fair.

The aims of ECO-CCI as per its statute are to facilitate trade and economic cooperation and promote closer relations between the business communities of the member states and also entrusted the responsibility of organizing joint trade fairs, exhibitions, meetings, conferences, seminars and other promotional activities with the view to further strengthening trade relations among the Member States.

The Secretariat and Chairmanship of ECO-CCI have been given to the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as per the decision of 7th General Assembly Meeting of ECO-CCI held on April 20, 2004 in Kabul, Afghanistan. Afghanistan authorities are hosting the said Trade Fair to attract Public and Private Sector to participate in the ECO Projects related to reconstruction of Afghanistan and to promote Trade and investment in the ECO Region.

The said Trade Fair is a long awaited one and is likely to boost the familiarity of the products of the Member States. Based on this single exhibition demand for large amount of products and booking supply orders are expected. <http://www.ecosecretariat.org/>

[home](#)

FUNDING

BOND – Funding News – June 2005

- Diana Memorial Fund International Grants Programme Re-opens
 - DFID Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department Update
 - DFID Civil Society Challenge Fund Update
 - More News from the Diana Memorial Fund
 - Comic Relief Update
 - New Funding Compact
 - Making a Difference Together
 - Who Counts?
 - Funding News Archive
 - EU funding news
 - **Features**
 - Feeling Rejected? Why Proposals Fall Short
BOND's Learning and Training team have uncovered common reasons why proposals are rejected by the Big Lottery Fund, DFID and Comic Relief.
 - Core Funding - Getting the Mix Right
Bill Bruty takes a look at the perennial problem of covering core funding for NGOs.
 - Funding Features Archive
-

Diana Memorial Fund International Grants Programme Re-opens

The Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund 2005 grants programme for UK-based charitable organisations working internationally is now open. This is a stop-gap programme while the Fund carries out a consultation exercise to determine its longer term criteria for International Grants.

The Fund is focusing on work with people whose social exclusion, poverty and displacement is due to war or serious civil conflict. Funding is only being deployed in post-conflict environments though, not in areas of current conflict. Priority issues are:

The re-integration of child soldiers into their communities including disarmament, demobilisation and rehabilitation (DDR).

Creating safe and viable communities post-conflict.

Work with people who suffer particular stigma or discrimination as a result of conflict.

Internally displaced people.

People trafficking (particularly projects in conflict-ridden countries from which trafficking occurs).

Work with people whose psychological and mental health has been affected by conflict.

The Diana Fund will support both service delivery work and advocacy and awareness raising. Projects seeking to link practical work on the ground with influencing changes in broader policy and practice are especially welcome. It is also keen to support projects that would otherwise find it difficult to secure the necessary funding.

All applicants are expected to show that they are working in partnership with local organisations in the area where the project is based. In terms of geographical location, the Fund is prioritising the poorest countries and in all cases, projects must address the needs of the most disadvantaged. Applications can be made for work in more than one country.

The closing date for completed applications is 24 June. For guidelines and application forms, please visit the website. www.theworkcontinues.org/grants/international_grants.asp

DFID Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department Update

CHAD (the Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs Department) has recently re-structured its funding to civil society organisations, creating a Conflict and Humanitarian Fund (CHF) to fund projects and organisations working on conflict prevention and humanitarian affairs.

The CHF is now open to applications. Full application and guideline details can be found on the DFID website. The deadline for submitting concept notes is 24 June 2005, with four weeks to then submit a full project proposal if invited. There is a project-based grants stream and a programmatic grants stream. DFID will announce projects in September.

Priority areas for this phase of the programme are 'humanitarian assistance', 'conflict prevention' and 'security and development'. Note that organisations with unrestricted core funding from DFID, such as PPAs, cannot apply for the programmatic funding. www.dfid.gov.uk/funding

DFID Civil Society Challenge Fund Update

The Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF) has reverted back to its normal annual deadline of 31 July for the submission of proposals for funding from April 2006 onwards. The deadline for receipt of Concept Notes is the end of June 2005.

The new CSCF guidelines, which were revised after consultation in autumn 2004, are on the DFID website. Potential applicants with questions on the Fund should contact the Deputy Programme Manager Steve Nally who is happy to advise.

Email: s-nally@dfid.gov.uk Tel: 01355 843 199 www.dfid.gov.uk/funding

For more news see the BOND website <http://www.bond.org.uk/>

[home](#)

JOB VACANCIES

- **Shevolution Urgently Require a Gender/Development Specialist, Afghanistan**

Please Circulate

Urgently needed: Gender and Development Specialist for Afghanistan.

This is a six month post starting early 2006 and funded by ADB. Please respond direct to

Christiana Solomon on C.T.Solomon@Bradford.ac.uk

Tim Symonds, Executive Director, Project Parity Partnerships for Peace (PPPP), United Kingdom

Tel. +44 1435 882 655 **Fax** +44 1435 882 742 **Mobile** (Tim Symonds) +44 7773 776314

Mobile (Lesley Abdela) +44 7967 650 155 tim.symonds@shevolution.com

[home](#)

- **British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG) Require a Project Manager**

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan changes all the time. You'll make sure we do too.

BAAG
BRITISH AND IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP

REFUGEE COUNCIL

project manager

brixton, london £31,191

The British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG) was set up almost twenty years ago to make public the humanitarian needs of the Afghanistan people and Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan. Our expertise and knowledge have grown over the years and we now stand as one of the most influential and effective networks in our field. Following recent events in Afghanistan and a full service review, we're seeking to strengthen our advocacy capacity and become more influential with policy makers. In this brand new role, working with the Refugee Council, you'll make sure we succeed.

Your primary challenge will be to implement the strategic direction as defined and agreed in our organisational review. At the head of a specialist team, you'll lead the development of our advocacy, fundraising and policy making strategies, while representing us in negotiations at government level. You'll also maintain an overview of the developments in Afghanistan and how they impact our work. In everything you do, you'll remain balanced, objective and sensitive to the needs of all groups involved in the BAAG - from large NGOs to small specialist agencies.

An experienced manager with knowledge of the operating environment in Afghanistan and two years' experience of aid work with an NGO, you're more than up to the challenge. Your experience also includes planning projects, developing policy and advocacy and both creating and implementing fundraising strategies. You're analytical and results driven too, with the ability to build relationships with external partners and represent our work at the very highest levels. Given the nature of the role, you must be willing to work flexibly and travel when required.

For an application pack please phone 020 7832 1623 and quote ref: RC230/G.
Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 15th June 2005.
Downloadable application packs available from www.jobsincharities.co.uk

The Refugee Council - taking positive action for equal opportunities. Charity No. 10 14576

[home](#)

NATO

NATO-GCSP Conference - New Approaches to Civil-Military Relations: Strategies and Practices

Geneva, 6-8 July 2005 - DRAFT PROGRAMME attached – please refer to 3.21

Accommodation

Hotel Mon Repos (Five minutes walk to the WMO Building)
131-133, Rue de Lausanne
CH-1202 Genève
Tél +41 22 909 39 09
Fax +41 22 909 39 93
<http://www.hmrge.ch/accueil.htm>

Venue

WMO Building, 7bis Avenue de la Paix, CH – 1211 Geneva

[home](#)

POVERTY

- **Global Call to Action Against Poverty**



The Global Call to Action against Poverty (G-CAP) is a worldwide alliance committed to forcing world leaders to live up to their promises, and to make a breakthrough on poverty in 2005. The objective is rather to act together in order to influence on governments to act against poverty and to achieve the MDGs than to reach absolute agreement on a detailed global policy platform.

G-CAP wants to be an opportunity for all people who believe in ending poverty; existing coalitions, community groups, Trade Unions, individuals, Religious and Faith groups, campaigners and more for expressing their demands of a real action for overcoming poverty.

In Johannesburg, September 2004, the G-CAP International Facilitation Group identified some broad policies to unite the alliance's actions:

- Trade justice
- Debt cancellation
- A major increase in the quantity and quality of aid
- National efforts to eliminate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals that are sustainable and implemented in a way that is democratic, transparent, and accountable to citizens

Hundreds of organizations and individuals are involved with the different campaigns of this global movement. The White Band Campaign is the one major symbolic action tying together all of alliance's activities and campaigns across the world.

There are two main dates in 2005 where people will be wearing the white band internationally, to demonstrate how many people believe that now is the time to eradicate poverty.

July 1st 2005: To put pressure on world leaders before the G8 meeting, and force them to make decisions to benefit the world's poorest people.

Early September 2005: We are five years into the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals, and the world is way off track. This is the opportunity to make sure that world leaders at

least keep these promises to improve the lives of millions of people living in poverty.

G-CAP is also made up of national campaigns around the world. Countries build on existing networks, and the strategies and activities that are already being planned.

The Global Call to Action Against Poverty is an alliance of both South and North; it is not a membership organization.

Any non-profit organization willing to support the core message and joint action is invited to become involved. The main level of co-ordination will be national platforms, layered under regional networks. National activities will be home grown, will include national priorities and national demands and will build on existing initiatives. Mass mobilization and people-centred advocacy will be key to the campaign. <http://www.whiteband.org/> [home](#)

- **Launch of the Grow Up Free From Poverty Coalition Report with Hilary Benn**

'Achieving Our Dreams For 2015'- Launch of the Grow Up Free From Poverty Coalition report with Hilary Benn 16 June - 4pm - Committee room 10, House of Commons. [home](#)

SECURITY

New CrisisWatch bulletin from the International Crisis Group

CrisisWatch No.22, 1 June 2005

Thirteen conflict situations around the world deteriorated in May 2005, according to this month's edition of [CrisisWatch](#).^{*} In Uzbekistan, following months of public unrest, government troops in the eastern city of Andijon fired indiscriminately into protesters, killing as many as 750 mostly unarmed civilians, including women and children. More than 570 were killed in a wave of violence in Iraq. Pakistan suffered sectarian attacks that left dozens dead, and at least 19 were killed in violent anti-U.S. demonstrations in Afghanistan.

Lethal bomb blasts shook Central Sulawesi in Indonesia, site of serious Christian-Muslim fighting in 1999-2001. In the most serious attack on the Burmese capital Yangon in recent history, three coordinated blasts killed at least 19 and injured 162. Fifteen died in clashes in Somalia, threatening the fragile transitional government. Amid continued economic decline and fears of famine, conditions in Zimbabwe further worsened when the government announced plans for the demolition of shacks home to one million urban poor. The situations also deteriorated last month in Angola, Bolivia, North Korea, Papua New Guinea and Turkey.

May 2005 also brought improvements to the conflict situations in six countries. Georgia had a positive month with the signing of a major agreement that plots the full withdrawal of Russian forces from Georgia by the end of 2008. Relations across the Taiwan Strait took a step for the better as China announced a lifting of its ban on most travel to the island. The peace process in Cote d'Ivoire made limited progress with a deal on disarmament. The situations also improved in Central African Republic, Kyrgyzstan, and the Philippines.

For June 2005, *CrisisWatch* identifies the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Somalia and Uzbekistan as Conflict Risk Alerts, or situations at particular risk of new or significantly escalated conflict in the coming month. No new Conflict Resolution Opportunities were identified for June.

TRENDS AND WATCHLIST SUMMARY

MAY 2005 TRENDS

Deteriorated Situations

Afghanistan, Angola, Bolivia, Indonesia, Iraq, Myanmar/Burma, North Korea, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe

Improved Situations

Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Taiwan Strait

Unchanged Situations

Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Basque Country (Spain), Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Chechnya (Russia), China (internal), Colombia, Cyprus, DR Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India (non-Kashmir), Iran, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Lebanon,

Liberia, Macedonia, Mauritania, Moldova, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Nepal, Nigeria, Northern Ireland (UK), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia & Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Somaliland (Somalia), Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela, Western Sahara, Yemen

JUNE 2005 WATCHLIST

Conflict Risk Alert

DR Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Somalia, Uzbekistan

Conflict Resolution Opportunity

None

* NOTE: *CrisisWatch* indicators - up and down arrows, conflict risk alerts, and conflict resolution opportunities - are intended to reflect *changes within countries or situations from month to month*, not comparisons between countries. For example, no "conflict risk alert" is given for a country where violence has been occurring and is expected to continue in the coming month: such an indicator is given only where new or significantly escalated violence is feared.

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UNHCR

Angelina Jolie Donates 1 million dollars to Help Afghan Refugees

GENEVA: US actress Angelina Jolie, recently appointed goodwill ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), is donating one million dollars to ease the suffering of Afghan refugees, the UNHCR said on Thursday.

The contribution of the Academy Award-winning actress was the first private donation since the UNHCR launched an appeal on Wednesday for donors to provide \$252 million to deal with the growing Afghan refugee crisis.

UNHCR head Ruud Lubbers praised Jolie's sense of humanitarian responsibility which she exhibited "despite the trauma of recent events in her country."

As fear of US military reprisal for the September 11 terrorist attacks grows, Afghans have been fleeing their country in record numbers, with as many as 1.5 million Afghans expected to seek entry into neighbouring Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

Jolie visited Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan in August. At a press conference after the visit, she said, "Pakistan is the worst situation ... and it seems to be worsening. They're living in situations that I don't think anybody in this room could survive in for a few days."

Launching one of the biggest emergency appeals in its history, UNHCR said it needed to raise money to deploy more staff and supplies to the region. **Source: Moneyplans Archives** – <http://archives.moneyplans.net/frontend204-verify-7572.html> accessed 5th June 2005. [home](#)

If you want further information on any of the above subjects please email Jeanne Bryer at Afghanlinks@aol.com
NB. All information contained here identifies the source and is shared with readers in good faith. If you find any incorrect details please let me know and they will be rectified immediately. *Afghan Links* is produced by Jeanne Bryer who formerly worked for the British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group and who currently works for Khorasan Orphanage in Kabul and the Kathy Evans Afghan Education Trust. If you no longer wish to receive the Afghan Links Newsletter please send an email to Jeanne Afghanlinks@aol.com and your address will be removed.

