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Reports

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE PAKISTAN PROGRAM

QUARTERLY REPORT



REFUGEES TRAINED IN CARPENTRY AND WELDING
MAKE SCHOOL BENCHES FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN

JULY -- SEPTEMBER, 1988

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SPECIAL REPORT

REALISTIC PREPARATIONS FOR THE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO AFGHANISTAN

Speculation about the return of refugees to Afghanistan began in earnest at the beginning of 1988, when it seemed fairly certain that the Geneva Peace Accords would be signed. Now, nine months later, conjecture about when and how the refugees will return and who will provide assistance continues to present a perplexing and confusing situation.

Nevertheless, efforts to plan for a future in which nothing seems certain are being made. This is being done by agencies individually, and is also taking place collectively through the forum provided by the newly formed Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR). Tom Yates made mention of ACBAR in a letter which accompanied the IRC report covering the second quarter of this year. ACBAR is now an established organization with some 60 member agencies. Eight sub-committees of ACBAR are also operational: Medical, Education, Agriculture, Construction, Logistics and Mine Clearance, Refugees and Repatriation, Human Resources and Library Services. Through the sub-committees agencies are trying to focus upon problems attendant to particular areas. Within some sub-committees task forces have also been organized to even further refine the ways in which specific problems can be approached.

The issues involved with the return of the refugees to Afghanistan, are multifarious and complex. One can only hope that through the ACBAR mechanism as well as through more private methods, some plans and preparations can be formulated. Obviously, the great difficulty in developing any strategy now is that the future is so unsure and unpredictable. People are, however, trying. Given the "unreality" of what is being planned for, there is a danger that those of us involved can become so enmeshed in this that we lose sight of what in fact can be done now, within the framework which currently exists.

As one of the leading agencies providing services to refugees living in Pakistan and also supporting a number of organizations working in Afghanistan, IRC is urging others to think about projects which can be implemented now to prepare refugees for their return to Afghanistan and to make some provisions for the resources agencies will require in order to carry out plans. IRC has already begun some projects specifically designed for this purpose. Many of these projects involve training of refugees. The training is not only to assist refugees in preparing for their future lives, but also to fill what could become an enormous gap in manpower necessary to carry out programs. As agencies grow, more and more trained Afghan staff are needed. The scarcity of qualified Afghan personnel is already beginning to be felt amongst organizations working in Peshawar, and in Afghanistan. This situation is likely to worsen as time goes on.

a

This short report describes some of the efforts IRC is making to alleviate this condition.

An essential goal of the IRC Education Program is to assist in the preparation of young Afghans for the rebuilding of their country. Through all of the projects operating under the Education Program Afghans are receiving knowledge which will equip them for a better future. Recently some new projects have begun which are more specifically in response to what the Afghans have indicated will be needed most when refugees begin returning.

The Educational Directors of three Afghan political parties wrote a letter to IRC saying:

"At present the major problem in reconstructing Afghanistan is the lack of human power..." "And in the current stage construction and building activities are also hard."

The engineers who work in the IRC Construction Engineering Program (a three year post-secondary course) have also indicated a need for persons trained in basic construction techniques.

IRC's reaction to this has been to develop a Construction Foremen Training Program. This will offer both a nine and an 18-month course beginning sometime during the fall. These courses are less theoretical than the Construction Engineering Program and are designed to teach students who will return to the provinces how to build basic structures, roads and water systems. An Advisory Board has been set up to recommend various subjects which should be covered and an expatriate engineer has been hired to assist with the design of the courses and practical training. The practical training will most probably take place in Hangu through the Construction Project of the Self-Reliance Program.

Another training program which has grown out of a desire on the part of Afghans to upgrade their skills in preparation for the future is the Public Administration Project. At a meeting with a number of Afghan administrators they told the IRC Education Program staff that when Afghanistan becomes free, they do not want to use office workers from the Kabul regime for programs in Afghanistan. They want to employ people who have worked with "jihad" and the refugees. The Public Administration Program will offer full time courses for approximately 20 students as well as a series of part-time courses for many more. Over 100 young men took the recent admissions test for this program. Courses will include subjects which will help train Afghans not only to be efficient office workers, but also to be effective managers and administrators. A one-week intensive workshop "Managing Yourself and Your Team" was conducted in September for Afghan Managers working in various voluntary agencies, including some people from IRC programs. The response from the Managers was very enthusiastic and we have already seen the positive impact of this workshop reflected in the performance of our staff.

b

The Education Program staff also believes it is necessary to develop appropriate educational opportunities for young children and Afghan youth from rural backgrounds in an attempt to lay the groundwork for continuing education in Afghanistan. These programs have recently begun in the refugee camps between Hangu and Thal and in other areas such as Kurram, Waziristan, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan. For young children support is being provided to small, community-based schools on the basis of requests. Thus far over 120 tents have been given to these schools. The idea is that these can be easily transported back to Afghanistan. The schools are also given textbooks, various other supplies and teacher training. For youth and adults in the camps we are trying to develop a literacy/technical training program. The technical training would be carried out within existing programs of IRC and other voluntary agencies -- programs like construction, agriculture and sanitation, which are already addressing many of the training needs important for the future of Afghanistan.

Through the IRC Medical Program the health status of many refugees has improved over the years. We are at a point now, for example, where refugees are accustomed to the concept of immunization. Providing vaccinations to women and young children before they return to Afghanistan is something which can easily take place now, while there is time. IRC teams have begun to do this through a systematic vaccination campaign which is being carried out in all camps between Hangu and Thal and which may possibly take place in some camps in Kohat City. The plan is to aim for at least 80 percent coverage of this refugee population before they return in large numbers (possibly next spring). Chances are there will be no such immunization program offered in Afghanistan in the early stages of repatriation.

It is well known that medical care in Afghanistan is in desperately short supply. No organization can provide the vast number of physicians or set up the medical infrastructure needed to overcome this deficiency. However, refugees can be trained in simple, life-saving techniques with which they can serve their own communities upon returning to Afghanistan. IRC has already trained large numbers of refugees in various medical capacities: vaccinators, clinical assistants (both male and female), sanitarians, and male and female community health workers (in this last category over 1,200 men and women have been trained). What is planned now is an extension of this training so as to provide greater coverage of refugees who live in camps in Kohat and between Hangu and Thal. Approximately 1,000 refugees will be trained under this project. Through the community health workers a survey has also been conducted throughout the Hangu -- Thal camps which will tell us where in Afghanistan each refugee family comes from. This survey also indicates where trained refugees are likely to return to. The data is now being compiled and will, hopefully, give us a clear picture of where more training should take place.

C

To assist with health training of refugees being carried out by IRC and all other voluntary agencies, IRC's Health Education Resource Center (HERC) is producing appropriate education materials. Two new projects undertaken are the development of a health education course for young school children and the manufacturing of silk screened posters on cloth depicting a number of general health topics. These materials will be used by refugees while they remain in Pakistan, but have been especially geared to further use in Afghanistan. The cloth posters, for example, are easily transportable and long lasting.

Finally, the Self-Reliance Program also has a role in preparing refugees for their eventual return home. Through projects such as the Auto Workshop in Hangu and the Printing Press in Peshawar refugees are receiving on-the-job training in skills which will be useful in the future development of Afghanistan. The Construction Project is providing an ideal training facility for students now being trained in projects of the Education Program. Presently underway is an agricultural survey among the refugee population of the Hangu to Thal camps. Based upon the information provided, a training program may be initiated at the beginning of next year to prepare refugees for conditions they are likely to face in Afghanistan. All projects of the Self-Reliance Program have tried to decrease dependency of refugees on outside assistance by giving them an opportunity to earn money. IRC believes that these opportunities should, if possible, be expanded now so that refugees will have some cash on hand to purchase food and basic supplies needed to survive when they begin returning.



The present uncertainty about the future of Afghan refugees in Pakistan is challenging organizations to act in a situation which is extremely baffling. The confusion, however, need not immobilize us. Rather, it is now vital to look at the structures which exist, which are familiar and within which work has been continuing for the past eight years. These structures can be used to develop and implement practical schemes through which refugees can be assisted to cope with what lies ahead.



HEALTH WORKER TRAINEES PRACTICE
PREPARATION OF ORAL REHYDRATION SOLUTION

INTRODUCTION

The IRC Program has continued this quarter to respond to the on-going and changing needs of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Through the newly established Rural Assistance Program IRC is now also assisting a number of organizations working in Afghanistan.

The past three months have presented an increasingly complex situation with the future of 3,000,000 Afghan refugees in Pakistan still very unclear. Faced with this, IRC is trying to maintain a practical outlook toward preparing for the possible return of the refugees to Afghanistan. In this connection it was mentioned in the previous quarter's report that IRC was developing various training programs. These have now begun to take shape.

A tremendous amount of work has been done in the Education Program, in particular, with no less than six new programs getting fully underway this quarter, including a large Hangu-based project. Through the dynamic leadership of Margaret Segal and the enormous efforts of her staff, the Education Program has now become the largest of the IRC Programs in Pakistan.

The Medical Program saw the addition of two new medical teams and the opening of field laboratories in two camps. Staff of the Public Health Program in Hangu and the Health Education Resource Center in Peshawar are currently working on formulating the curriculum for the Extension Health Worker Training Program which will train 1,000 public health workers who will assist their communities both here and upon returning to Afghanistan. Because of expansion in the Medical Program and the increasing need for a tighter administrative structure, an Administrative Coordinator position was added in Hangu this quarter.

The Self-Reliance Program has continued to grow and this quarter initiated an agricultural survey to assess attitudes of refugee farmers in the Hangu to Thal camps in an effort to determine how IRC can assist agricultural needs in the future.

All of this work has gone on against a backdrop of uncertainty and confusion. This has made it especially hard to remain focused upon the task at hand. The various program staff deserve great praise for the work they have achieved under these difficult circumstances.

The following report will describe in detail what has occurred in the program in Pakistan and, for the first time, will include information concerning IRC's efforts to assist war-affected Afghans in their homeland.

HANGU MEDICAL PROGRAM

PUBLIC HEALTH

Male Community Health Worker Training

With the graduation in September of 92 Community Health Workers (CHW's) in the camps of Doaba, Kotki I and Kotki II, IRC has established its CHW program in all camps where we are operational. The newly graduated-CHW's were awarded certificates and given their basic medical kits. For all of the camps, a total of 602 CHW's have been trained so far. Sadly it is reported that two CHW's were killed this quarter while fighting in Afghanistan. In addition, the program lost two Community Health Supervisors (CHS's): one joined the new Hangu Education Program and the other died from a liver disease.

As mentioned in a previous quarterly report, the camps are currently being searched for clusters of families who might not have been included in the original CHW program plan. Having found such a cluster in Dallan, training of two Community Health Supervisors was initiated this summer. They will complete their training at the Save the Children/UK Badaber Training Center in early October, and will then begin training more CHW's in Dallan camp. The Motivation Team and the two CHS's being trained assisted in the selection of these twenty new CHW's.

As part of IRC's integrated approach to health care in the camps, the CHS's and CHW's in Naryab, Kahi, Darsamand and Mohammad Khoja camps are involved in organizing the mass immunization campaign; and the Lakhti Banda CHW's are assisting and motivating women to participate in the Female Community Health Worker training program. Moreover, the Motivation Team has been helping notify people about the mass immunization campaign and encouraging them to participate. At present they are also monitoring the work of the CHW's in Darsamand and Dallan camps. Monitoring the work of the CHW's is a time-consuming but necessary task. It is done through visiting the homes and mosques of the CHW's and interviewing families to assess the impact of the health education received from the CHW and also to determine how regularly each CHW visits the homes of his assigned families. In Darsamand and Dallan camps the Team has visited 70 CHW's, their assigned families and 52 mosques. They are also checking children's growth cards and motivating parents to have their children immunized.

Program supervisors also met with the CHS's and CHW's to discuss problems and ways to improve the program. It was felt that the CHS's and CHW's were not getting enough feedback. The CHS's pointed out that they are asked to assist in the mass immunization campaign but do not learn its outcome. In view of this, a monthly report will be provided to the CHS's of all activities in their

respective camps: for example, how many children and women were immunized through the outreach program; the number of TB defaulters; the incidence of diarrhea and malaria during the month; and the monthly topic for health education the CHW's should teach during their home visits.

In September all the CHW's gave health education lectures on the importance of immunization to assist the mass immunization campaign now being carried out. In October the topic will be malaria since the incidence of falciparum malaria will be high. This will encourage people to fill ponds and implement other methods of mosquito control. Many people who believe that they may have malaria simply obtain a chloroquine injection and nothing more. Instead, the CHW's are advising the refugees of the need to go to a BHU, confirm malaria by having a blood smear performed, and then take the full course of medication prescribed by the physician.

In addition, the CHS's and CHW's felt that they were not getting enough guidance and support from the BHU staff. Beginning in November workshops have been planned with the BHU staff on Primary Health Care which should increase both awareness of and support for this program.

Female Community Health Worker Program

With training of women in Thal II completed trainers are now at work in Lakhti Banda camp. At present 74 women are being trained in 15 groups (three women have dropped out). Our goal is to train enough FCHW's so that every pregnant woman will have access to a trained woman. Since the initiation of CHW's encouraging and motivating women to undertake this training there has been an upsurge in the numbers of women asking for the training course.

The total number of FCHW's trained to date is 573, including the 64 FCHW's who completed their training in Thal II earlier in the quarter. During this quarter the FCHW's working in the camps have assisted in 1,264 deliveries and referred 2,209 children and 1,253 pregnant women to the BHU's. One FCHW in Mohammad Khoja camp attended three deliveries which were beyond her capacity (a breech birth, stillbirth and twins) and she referred the cases to the Hangu Hospital. It is encouraging to see that the FCHW's are capable of recognizing high risk deliveries and making the appropriate referrals.

IRC also received a vote of confidence when UNHCR requested that our trainers instruct Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA's) for them in UNHCR's Kohat City camps. Five IRC trainers go to Kohat every afternoon after finishing their training in IRC camps. UNHCR pays a small stipend to the trainers and driver for this additional work. At present, a total of 75 women in Chichana and Oblan camps are undergoing training. In this group five women have dropped

out; experience has shown that a dropout rate of 10% to 15% is to be expected.

The FCHW's trained in Naryab camp last summer returned this year during the usual migration of refugees from Mianwali in the Punjab. These women told the trainers that they had helped many women in Mianwali in the past year and were grateful for the training they had received. They are currently undergoing a refresher course. As the number of FCHW's has grown, these courses have become increasingly important. We now plan to have two of the trainers instruct refresher courses and do follow-up in all the camps on a regular basis. These courses will be instituted beginning in October.

Extension Health Worker Training

At present recruitment is continuing for a Manager for this project, through which approximately 1,000 health workers will be trained in the Hangu to Thal camps and in some camps in Kohat City. In the meantime IRC's Health Education Resource Center has begun to investigate educational resources available so as to assist with the development of a training curriculum for the program. Additionally, a survey of all IRC-served camps to find out where in Afghanistan refugees come from and where trained people will return to has been completed. This was a large undertaking which took approximately three months. This data is now being entered into a data-base. When this has been done, a good impression of where new training should take place will be possible.

Ante-Natal/Immunization Outreach Program

This summer the Ante-natal Outreach and the Mass Immunization Programs were combined. By taking this step, better coverage for immunization can be achieved, especially for tetanus toxoid (TT), and health education on cord care, delivery and the preparation of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) can continue. At the same time necessary ante-natal check-ups can be performed. As well as providing greater numbers of immunizations, it is hoped that this program can help to further reduce the infant mortality rate due to neonatal tetanus and dehydration due to diarrhea (the major causes of infant mortality).

Four ante-natal/vaccination teams are now at work. Each consists of one Lady Health Visitor (LHV) to perform ante-natal check-ups, one assistant LHV to give the health education lectures and administer TT vaccinations, and a male vaccinator to immunize children. In addition, a CHS and CHW will motivate and organize site selection and inform people of the mass vaccination campaign. Two additional teams will soon be added for more effective coverage of all the camps. Each of the six teams will work in a camp for

three months, completing the three doses of vaccines and three ante-natal check-ups for pregnant women. After six months they will return to the camp and give a follow-up TT injection.

During this quarter, the outreach team vaccinated 4,818 women for TT and 2,019 children against various diseases. The team also gave health education lectures on cord care and ORS to 4,005 women. The LHV's performed ante-natal check-ups on 541 pregnant women.

The following is a summary of the immunizations done in September after the combined ante-natal/vaccination teams were initiated.

	MASS VACCINATION	MCH/BHU OUTREACH	BHUs	TOTAL
TT	2,015	296	767	3,078
OTHERS	2,179	332	5,504	8,015

From this summary it is evident that through the Ante-Natal/Vaccination Outreach Program it is possible to immunize a much larger sector of the population.

For the quarter through various vaccination activities the staff administered over 38,000 immunizations. This is down by about 3,000 over last quarter's record of 41,000. However, given the large number of holidays and the need to close the program during August owing to the Sunni/Shia conflict in Hangu, it is still an excellent effort.

The Sanitation Program

Water Supply:

The water situation in Kahi camp has greatly improved. During the quarter the IRC Sanitation Supervisor conducted a number of studies to see just how much water the percolation wells could supply if properly utilized. He found that if the operator pumped water five times a day, the wells could supply 45,000 gallons of water, which is sufficient to fill the surface reservoirs in the camp twice a day and also provide water to the standposts scattered around the camp. A number of meetings were also held with the Pakistan Health and Engineering Department (PHED) officials who are responsible for the piped system in Kahi. These were fruitful and pledges on both sides were made to work more cooperatively in the future. Subsequent to these meetings two visits were made to Kahi specifically to see what had happened with the water situation. It was found that the problem was being resolved and that refugees were not short of water. This has been a very positive development.

During this quarter 942 concrete well rings were made, 27 shallow wells were improved and 55 repaired. All improved shallow wells are being chlorinated regularly. Four gravity springs have been improved in Mohammad Khoja and Kahi camps and work started in September on two more springs in Darsamand. Nine surface tanks have been built for the improved springs, each providing potable water for about 40 families.

The spring improvement project in Darsamand actually combines two springs from which water will be piped to eight surface tanks for a number of family clusters. Each surface tank will supply water for about 250 consumers. There was a problem in selecting the site for the second surface tank since about ten families are insisting that the second surface tank be built in an area which is higher than the hydraulic grade line. Since it is technically impossible to build a surface tank under those conditions, we will try to build a stand post instead.

Problems with water supply have now reached a serious stage in the camps of Thal I and Thal II. Both these camps are supplied by a piped scheme originating in Thal I camp. During a heavy rainstorm in July the transformer for the Thal I tube well was damaged and pipe lines were washed away. With their main source of water cut off, the refugees of these camps have been forced to use contaminated water. This water system is also the responsibility of PHED. They have been very slow in making the necessary repairs. Meetings with the officer in charge were held at the end of August. The necessary repairs will eventually be made (when is not clear) and it has also been recommended to change the direction of the main pipe so that it no longer is in danger of being washed away.

Latrine Construction:

It was mentioned in last quarter's report that the establishment of surface latrines had begun in some camps. However, refugees have not been willing to build the superstructures for these latrines and so the project has been stopped. The funds will be diverted to water supply activities, particularly the improvement of gravity springs. Lack of enthusiasm on the part of the refugees is probably due to the possibility that they may soon be returning to Afghanistan.

Construction of pit latrines has continued and over the past three months 503 latrines have been completed in Hangu and Kohat camps (about the same number that were built last quarter). A total of 20 reinforced pit latrines were completed in Lakhti Banda and Doaba camps. Sanitarians issued PVC pipes, mesh wire, and iron covers routinely for the maintenance of the pit latrines throughout the camps.

Health Education:

In the past three months over 2,500 health education sessions were held in clinics, schools and mosques. A variety of topics were presented by the sanitarians with latrine use being stressed because of the growing indifference among the refugees with regard to latrine construction.

Vector Control:

Insecticide spraying (to control mosquitoes) started between Hangu and Thal after the Eid holidays in July. Sanitarians and malaria controllers, with the help of CHS's and CHW's, completed the spray campaign within the target time of one month.

Other efforts included draining 31 stagnant water ponds, pouring kerosene oil on 16 other ponds, and burning garbage collections in 11 areas.

THE BASIC HEALTH UNITS

MAIN CLINICS

In September two new medical teams were added to the program. IRC now operates ten medical teams serving eleven sites in the Hangu to Thal area. The two teams will begin work in October and will allow IRC to keep eight of the eleven sites open five days per week. One of the new teams, which will work part of the week in a two-day-a-week clinic, will spend the rest of the week conducting outreach activities in all of the camps between Hangu and Thal. They will begin by visiting the most needy areas, where there has been little or no medical coverage up to now. Rather than set up in one spot, the team will move around, visiting homes, schools, mosques, etc. They will focus upon public health (sanitation, for example), health education and immunization. Additionally, it is hoped to utilize this outreach team to formulate a more comprehensive health program for schools in the area.

The total number of patients visits recorded for the quarter was over 134,000. High numbers of visits were recorded in July (49,000) and in September (over 50,000). However patient visits were considerably down in August. This was because of the limited number of days clinics could remain open during that month owing to Sunni/Shia clashes subsequent to the death of President Zia, and also the Moharram holiday. High numbers of visits will in all likelihood continue to be recorded with the addition of the two new medical teams.

Last quarter the issue of over-prescription of medications was raised. This is an on-going concern. Efforts are being made to

try to limit the prescription of unnecessary medicines. However, realistically, this problem will not be easily solved in the foreseeable future.

In general, the pattern of disease remained somewhat the same throughout the quarter. Visits were high in the categories of respiratory disease, skin disease, aches and pains, and ear, nose and throat infections.

Malaria

A malaria spray campaign was completed at the end of August (as was mentioned previously). The effectiveness of this kind of effort is somewhat questionable as from August to September there was no discernible difference in the incidence of malaria. Because of this refugees are also encouraged to take other preventive measures such as filling stagnant ponds and airing out their rooms and bedding. It is especially important to do these things now as in October falciparum malaria peaks. Already doctors are seeing many more cases of positive falciparum malaria. There was a jump from 38 cases in August to 184 in September.

SERVE Eye Team

Every month the SERVE Eye Team comes to Hangu for a day. SERVE, a British-based voluntary agency, has an eye hospital in Peshawar. Patients are referred from the camps to the Hangu main office where they are examined by the Eye Team. Most receive treatment in Hangu, but some cases needing additional consultation or surgery are referred to the hospital in Peshawar. In September alone 80 patients were seen by the Eye Team. IRC is most grateful to SERVE for this assistance to the refugees.

Blood Donations

An important topic not addressed for some time is the problem of obtaining adequate blood supplies. The cultural prohibitions and misconceptions about giving blood are formidable barriers to overcome but recently some heartening changes in the attitude of the refugees have been seen.

When IRC initially started working in this area, refugees objected to doctors even obtaining blood samples for malaria smears and accused IRC of selling their blood. In fact, the refugees were so afraid of donating blood that they would react violently and run away. Once a refugee was asked to donate blood for his brother who needed an operation. He replied that "my brother is going to die in any case so why I should kill myself?" In another case a

husband refused to donate blood for his wife, asking "who will replace my blood?"

After eight years of health education, attitudes are changing. In September the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) requested that we try to arrange blood donations in Hangu since blood supplies were desperately needed for war victims with the increase in fighting in Afghanistan. This was discussed in meetings with IRC doctors and CHW's. After motivation work was done in the community, the ICRC team came to Hangu and was able to collect 54 units of blood. In fact, they had to turn people away since they had run out of time and equipment. (As an added incentive, anyone who donated blood saw the video-cassette of "Rambo III", with Sylvester Stallone battling the Russians in Afghanistan. This was an extremely popular motivator.)

The IRC Medical Program Coordinator is now trying to arrange blood donation in the Hangu to Thal camps on a regular basis. He would like to see some kind of blood drive done in schools and will possibly utilize the new medical team doing community outreach to introduce this idea.

Also generally encouraging is that in meetings with the refugee elders and members of the Health Committees this past quarter, IRC was praised for its efforts in assisting the refugee community. These same people also promised to continue their support for our program.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTERS (MCH's)

The past quarter has been no different from any other in the MCH's in terms of volume of work. It has been a very busy time. Even with the few number of working days in August over 15,000 visits of children were recorded. The MCH's normally receive 19,000 to 20,000 visits monthly. In September patient visits represented nearly 9,000 individual children. In Lakhti Banda camp alone 200 children visited the clinic on a daily basis.

The MCH Consultant writes in her September report:

"I don't know if you can easily imagine this sight. Each mother, dressed in many meters of extremely bright cloth, is sitting waiting on the crowded steps. Young babies are nursing, older children are scrambling around. The floor is so thick with bodies it is hard for a visitor to find enough space between them (the bodies) to get to the clinic door."

The situation in Lakhti Banda should be eased somewhat in October when, with the addition of two new medical teams, it will become a five-day-a-week clinic. The size of the MCH and the Special Feeding rooms will also be expanded in Lakhti Banda.

The number of new children coming for the first time to receive growth cards and vaccinations increased in September compared to July and August. This is an encouraging development, especially since 83% of the new "under fives" were under one year, and 74% of the babies under one year were under one month. Children who are about one month old are particularly vulnerable and as such are a target group. During September a record number of infants under one month were newly registered at the MCH's. Frankly, we are not sure if this is due to more children being born, mothers being more aware through our outreach program of the importance of coming, or whether it was simply a backlog due to the clinic closures in August. In all likelihood, it is a combination of all these factors.

Rehabilitative Feeding

Although the number of children attending the Special Feeding Program was high again this month, the number of children newly admitted was much lower, the lowest since March of this year. Those children already in the program have been attending more regularly. In July 58% of the children gained weight, increasing through August, and in September 64% gained weight, the highest percentage since March. We suspect that many children will be discharged this next month after the healthy sign of gaining weight. The encouraging weight gains are attributed to the decreased incidence of diarrhea and dysentery that plagued the population during the hot weather from April to August.

The percentage of defaulters (i.e., children not attending for three months) is still too high. CHW's have been asked to visit these families and encourage them to have their children attend the feeding program, as well as try to determine the reasons for defaulting. It could be that some are not attending since we have now run out of dried skim milk. This commodity is no longer being distributed by the World Food Program as in the past. The supply on hand is exhausted and it is now necessary to purchase Red Cow (full cream) powdered milk from the local bazaar at quite an additional expense to the feeding program. Milk is still being prepared, but is only being distributed to those who are third degree malnourished or chronically ill. Multi-mix (beans, rice and lentils) continues to be cooked and served in the feeding rooms. Mothers are also encouraged to make other supplementary foods at home.

Ante-Natal

In the antenatal clinics there was significantly higher attendance in September, perhaps due to the easing of the hot weather. Routine visits of women who have been in the program were up, and on a positive note 500 new pregnant women enrolled in the program.

in September alone. This was the highest number of initial visits of any month this year. The initial visit is very important since it allows the LHV's to screen for high risk pregnancies, ensure that pregnant women know about and receive tetanus toxoid immunization, distribute iron and folic acid, and to do some initial teaching about pregnancy and delivery.

Still, the percentage of women attending the ante-natal program is lower than is desirable. Statistics show that overall about 60% (it is as high as 89% in Thal 1, but as low as 32% in Dallan) of the mothers bringing newborns into the MCH had attended the ante-natal clinic. While demonstrating that mothers are aware of the desirability of newborns receiving injections, it also indicates that they do not themselves recognize the necessity of ante-natal care. We are trying to use health education to convince them of its importance but ante-natal care is a new concept and one they find difficult to accept.

In view of the possible return of refugees to Afghanistan in the foreseeable future, special efforts are being made to convey health messages that women will remember and take back with them. With this in mind, emphasis is being placed upon the MCH demonstration rooms: upgrading them, purchasing additional teaching materials, and increasing the skills of the Afghans and Pakistanis teaching the refugee women.

This quarter has also seen the development of a new statistical form for record keeping. We have tried to make it easier both to read and to compare monthly figures. For the first time a provision for birth control users has been included. Although the staff is hesitant to overtly encourage family planning, the form will help to evaluate the present use of contraception.

A welcome staff addition this quarter is a Swedish social work student who will be helping us carry out some long awaited evaluation of the MCH program. The student's work will focus upon the ante-natal program to gain insight into the overall health status of the women, the percentage of high risk pregnancies, the frequency of specific problems and how well they are being attended. In the Special Feeding Program an effort will be made to examine contributing factors associated with both weight gain and loss. Armed with this information, we can more effectively focus our attention on problems and their solutions.

THE MEDICAL REFERRAL PROGRAM

In order to improve the referral program, and to minimize unnecessary patient trips to Peshawar, a new referral form has been developed and a physician designated to first screen all the referrals in Hangu. Only if he is unable to effectively treat the patient will a referral be made to Kohat or Peshawar hospitals.

Complete feedback will also be given to the BHU physician making the initial referral so that he or she will know exactly what the diagnosis was or when to send the patient for follow-up visits. The IRC doctors are pleased with this arrangement and the number of patients referred out of Hangu has decreased somewhat due to this new screening method.

During the quarter, the Hangu-based doctor saw over 900 patients of whom 323 were referred to either Kohat or Peshawar for further treatment. Patients referred to Peshawar were satisfied with their treatment while several of those sent to Kohat had complaints. This is due to the fact that IRC has two doctors responsible for referral patients in Peshawar while, unfortunately, there are no such doctors available in Kohat.

THE HANGU LABORATORY

This quarter saw the graduation of three laboratory trainees who completed a three month training course in the IRC Hangu laboratory. Two of the graduates are now located in two new field laboratories which were opened this quarter. One laboratory is located in Thal I and will serve the Thal I and II camps, while the other is located in Kahi and will serve the Kahi and Mohammad Khoja camps. The tests performed in the field labs will include: blood smears for malaria parasite; stools for parasite infestation; urinalysis; and blood for total leucocyte count.

The BHU doctors like this new arrangement since it enables them to obtain lab results the same day. Previously, they had to wait one day in order to get the results back from the Hangu laboratory. Both BHU's having laboratories also have generators to run fans and microscopes. This was made possible by a donation from the Australian Embassy which paid for the generators, microscopes and some lab instruments.

A morning shift has also been initiated in the Hangu laboratory. Previously the lab did not open until noon since the various BHU's sent specimens only after seeing patients in the morning. Now, one morning shift technician performs the necessary tests for the IRC doctor screening patients for possible referral to Kohat or Peshawar. This added lab service has eliminated the problem of patients coming early and then having to wait until the noon opening.

Specimen carrying boxes were made by the Construction Program's carpenters this quarter for each of the eleven clinic sites. The boxes have portioned sections to carry various types of laboratory samples and are built so as to keep specimens upright. This should solve the problem of specimen leakage during transit which had been noted in the past.

MATERNAL CHILD CENTER (MCC)

This quarter has seen an average attendance of 50 to 65 children each day, with an increasing percentage of girls attending. The children are apparently feeling more comfortable, socializing more easily and accepting the presence of visitors. Where once the girls would have left the room at the sight of a male visitor, they now stay and continue their activities. Women are still not attending the Kahi MCC, out of fear of reprisals from the more fundamentalist refugee leaders, but the children report that the mothers are pleased with their children having a place to play and approve of the various toys and activities.

Health lessons will soon be incorporated into the traditional story telling activity. These health messages are being developed through the IRC Health Education Resource Center.

THE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Because of the expansion of the Education Program, a new administrative system was set up this summer to better coordinate and assist the different programs. Changes include the hiring of a Deputy Coordinator and the creation of five Assistant Coordinator positions, each overseeing a cluster of related education programs.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

This quarter the new Public Administration Program moved out of the realm of meetings and proposals and into a newly constructed building which will also house the Construction Foreman Training Program and men's Journalism classes.

During the first part of the quarter the focus of the program continued to be refined through meetings with managers at various voluntary agencies, academics in the management field, and members of the main Afghan political parties.

An intern completed her research on Pakistani administration and management programs. She also compiled a bibliography of the many public administration books she collected over the summer which will be the foundation for the program's reference library.

In late summer, the Deputy Coordinator, the Assistant Coordinator for Higher Education (a Fulbright scholar who is fluent in Dari), and the Training Officer took over planning, hiring and scheduling. Because the Program Manager will not arrive until October, an Afghan administrator and support staff were hired. These people were able to set up the office.

They also refined the basic structure of Public Administration Program. It has two main components:

- 1) Intensive short-term workshops, from one day to two weeks, for administrators and office workers employed by voluntary agencies, alliance groups and political parties. Although the bulk of these courses begin in the fall, a one-week workshop called Managing Yourself and Your Team was conducted in September.
- 2) Various long-term courses, meeting several hours per week, teaching administrative, management and office skills. This component can accommodate both full-time and part-time students.

In September, IRC notified potential students by circulating a flier describing these long-term courses and listing requirements for admission. To enroll in the long-term courses students must be 18 years old and pass an admissions exam testing English, math, Dari and Pushto skills.

On September 26, 106 students took the test and 75 scored high enough for admission. The top 20 students are eligible for admission to the full-time program. Full-time students must take from three to five courses. This term, two are required: English for Administration and Developing Reading and Writing Skills. Full-time students may also choose up to three electives. Part-time students can take from one to five courses of their choice. Other courses in the long-term program include: Public Administration; Introduction to Accounting; Beginning & Intermediate Typing; and Introduction to Computers.

Both full- and part-time students must register October 6 for classes that begin October 15. Fees for all students have been set with various scholarships offered based on need and academic success.

Over the summer IRC Education also sponsored two courses which are linked to this program, an introductory computer course and a daily typing class. Two summer interns from Norway taught two beginning computer classes. Held at the English Language Program, the course was offered to Afghan and Pakistani employees of voluntary agencies who had intermediate English and basic knowledge of the keyboard.

To teach this course, the interns created a teaching booklet, Introduction to Personal Computers. This 21-page manual is geared for computer learners who use English as a second language. It offers a simple introduction to the subject and then gets a student started with the Word Perfect program. The class was very popular and we will be able to use the computer guide in future computer classes.

During July and August about 42 students have continued typing lessons at the Experimental School, meeting for one hour every day, five days a week. Students easily learned the keyboard and touch typing, but they concentrated on speed rather than accuracy. Plans are being made to hire a resource person to help structure the course and train the typing teachers.

Five of the typing students who took the computer course offered at the ELP demonstrated a better typing ability than other students in the course, which shows the value of learning typing before learning computers.

WOMEN'S HIGHER EDUCATION

After a pilot project in higher education for women was approved by the Canadian Embassy in June, IRC's first step was to take a survey to find out how many women might be interested in taking university-level courses.

The survey was aimed at all 12th-grade graduates, including those women who have been forced to stop their studies during the past eight years and stay at home.

By August 88 surveys had been returned, with 73% of the women indicating an interest in taking science courses related to medicine. An Afghan woman who graduated from the Faculty of Engineering at Kabul University was hired as the Administrator for this new program in mid-summer. She and the Education Program Officer tabulated the surveys with the following results:

Subjects Women Expressed Interest in Studying

POTENTIAL STUDENTS	MEDICINE	ENGINEERING/ COMPUTERS	TEACHER TRAINING	TOTAL
English Speakers	30	12	2	44
Dari Speakers	34	4	6	44
TOTAL	64	16	8	88
% TOTAL	73%	18%	9%	

The high demand for medical courses showed that the women were hoping IRC could set up a complete medical faculty. This was far beyond the scope of a pilot program offering a few math and science courses. When the Education Coordinator received a call from the International Medical Corps. (IMC) indicating they would like to establish a training program for women similar to a medic training program they already run for men, IRC and IMC staff began exploring possibilities of a cooperative project. It also became apparent that women needed to be trained as medical translators in order to translate English written material and English-speaking doctors' lectures into Dari for the Afghan students as a survey showed that there are apparently no women available who could work as medical translators full-time who are not already employed.

After a brief survey of women at the English Language Program IRC found enough interest in both phases of this new plan to justify a request for additional funding from the Canadian Embassy. After a series of discussions IRC and IMC agreed to cooperate this fall in establishing a program to train medical translators. An American female doctor has been hired to write curriculum and coordinate the program.

The Medical Translation course will be offered in conjunction with a course in Typing, Computers and Office Skills to train students

for work in medical clinics or offices. Both courses will be housed in the women's section of the English Language Program.

Next year, if funding allows, we hope to cooperate with IMC in establishing a 12-month medic training course for women. Then some of the medical translators trained this fall could be hired to work in that program.

During July the program's Afghan Administrator created a placement test for 7th-12th grade math and science which was administered in September. Because so many women are interested in medicine we want to test their knowledge of these fields both before and after the program. We anticipate offering a review course in these areas before students join the proposed Medic Training program. These tests will provide a good yardstick for writing the review curriculum.

The Administrator and the Education Program Officer have also interviewed 14 women who have applied to be teachers in the higher education program. Of these nine had backgrounds in math or science, five were interested in teaching liberal arts subjects such as a Pushto or Dari language class. One of these candidates may be selected to teach a math and science review class. There has been some student interest in a Dari language course, but there are not enough students for a class at this point.

Over the summer an intern taught the first course offered in women's higher education. Called English for Mathematics, it grew from the strong student interest in science, math and computer courses and was designed to begin their preparation for higher-level study in English.

The course reviewed basic math skills, with a major emphasis on oral interpretation of English mathematical terminology. For the 16 students who enrolled in the course, it had been from two to eight years since they had taken a math course, and many of them had studied math only in Dari.

The intern planned the course day by day, without the aid of a textbook, and did an excellent job. She created a curriculum which could be easily followed by other teachers in the future. The most difficult sections of the course for students were reading and writing numbers, reading math problems, fractions, and percentages.

The intern said students in this first course were very attentive and are excited about participating in future courses. She had the following recommendations for future classes: organize an extension of this course before higher level courses begin; and offer a short course on note-taking, organization and study skills.

Originally part of the purpose of this course was to glean a group of students whose English was strong enough to study college-level math or science through a correspondence course at an American university. That idea has been shelved for the fall term, although it may be revived in the future. At this time the students were more interested in following the medical translation course.

JOURNALISM

The first term ended August 31 with progress and praise for both male and female students. Several of the men were able to land full-time jobs because of the English skills honed through the journalism course, while women received praise for their video skills. Some of their still photographs are being used in the US Information Service bulletin. The first and second editions of the student newspaper were also published this quarter. They represent hundreds of hours of student effort and experience.

Classes will begin again October 1 with some changes in format that enhance both the women's and men's programs. For the first time the Journalism Program Manager will teach the women's course in addition to the men's course, a step that will provide better coordination and continuity in course content. Women will also have a geography teacher for the first time this term in addition to their video training.

Advanced men's journalism will continue to be taught by the Program Manager, in addition an experienced reporter from the United States will teach news reporting one day a week. A veteran Afghan journalist will also work on student's native-language reporting skills this term and these students will continue to study geography one day a week.

During September placement tests were given to identify new students for a Beginning Men's Journalism course. One more test will be given in October, and then 15 to 20 students will be accepted into the course. Journalism enrollment is expected to total about 50 students this fall, about 32 men and 18 women.

Over the summer, the work-study program took shape, with 10 students hired on in refugee-related jobs, four of whom were later hired full-time. One student was asked to join the Afghan Media Resource Center (AMRC) after only two weeks as a part-time translator of Dari/Pushto news stories into English. The senior advisor to AMRC told the journalism supervisor that he is "the best translator we've had, and his writing in English is extraordinary."

Nine other students, including one woman, were hired by programs both in and outside of IRC. Their jobs range from computer work to elementary curriculum development, textbook translation and artwork for classes. They work from three to five hours a day, receiving

hourly wages of 11 rupees per hour paid through the journalism budget. Those students who work full time are allowed time off for journalism class.

Over the summer the men's class was visited by three professional journalists: an American broadcaster and Vietnam war photographer; a layout designer for an Australian newspaper; and Ghulam Koshan, a veteran of 40 years in Afghan print and broadcast journalism.

Koshan talked to the students in Dari about newspaper production standards and native-language reporting. He also provided the class with 16 copies of his new book, a handbook for journalists, written in Dari. To avoid the erosion of students' native-language skills as they receive advanced English training, Koshan believes students should continue native-language training. Without it, their English can begin to interfere with their native language ability, he said. The Program Manager agreed with this advice. During the fall term Koshan will teach students news skills in Dari three days a week.

Students also interviewed visitors from Norway and the U.S. during the quarter and learned that a journalist who visited the class last spring quoted a class member in an article published in the Wall Street Journal.

The first edition of the student newspaper came out in early July, but was unfortunately plagued with printing difficulties. The second edition is a much more accurate measure of student's abilities and talents. It includes news about Peshawar, Afghanistan and IRC programs as well as columns on religion, education and future plans for Afghan youth after repatriation.

Some of the women journalism students also received accolades this month when their instructor rated them among the top five in ability of the 80 video camera operators he has trained.

The 10 women students being trained with video cameras made trips to two refugee camps this month, Matani and Azakhil. Students shot video footage, still photographs and recorded interviews with many women refugees, some of whom had recently arrived in Pakistan after a month's walk out of Afghanistan.

The women also met with the owner of an independent TV production agency in Paris who gave them tips on careers in broadcasting, and Afghanistan scholar and journalist Nancy Dupree.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

This quarter the first women's graduation was held. About 100 people attended the all-female event held at the American Center in July. The chief guest was Karen Malinowski, an English teacher at the Lycee Malalai and the wife of the principal officer at the US

Consulate in Peshawar. The IRC is very proud of the 24 women who graduated.

July continued to be an extremely hot month and the ELP still experienced electrical problems. Because of the heat, a one-week holiday was declared at the end of June. This extended the semester to the first week in September.

A new facility known as the Board school opened August 21. All afternoon Level 1 classes are held at this school. Three new teachers have been hired to teach there and the school has been equipped. The new manager of the Board classes is an energetic and well-qualified administrator, eager to meet the needs of the staff and students. IRC expects that approximately 300 students will attend classes at this new location near the Nasir Bagh refugee camp.

In July a full-time teacher visited Hangu and conducted a mini-teacher training workshop. The Hangu English Programs are growing and untrained students are being hired as beginner and Level One Teachers. Bi-monthly, the ELP sends a full time staff member to Hangu to conduct training sessions. These have proved popular and valuable.

Unfortunately, several members of the Afghan teaching staff left in July and they will be difficult to replace. The program's first full-time female teacher left prior to immigration to the United States while three male instructors went to the United States to study.

During August the program received book donations from the Asia Foundation and the US Information Service (USIS) which have excited both the staff and students. Picture posters donated by USIS were presented at a teacher's meeting and have been a great success.

In early September, written and oral final exams were given at the end of the second term. Of the 822 male students, 654 passed and 168 failed, a success rate of 79.5%. Of the 201 females, 175 passed and 26 failed, a success rate of 87%. For all students, male and female, the average success rate was 81%. The failure rate was high in the advanced men's classes because the recently rewritten examination proved very difficult for the students. The Level 6 classes also had a low success rate, in part because some students had a weak instructor for their Level 5 course.

EXAMINATION RESULTS - SECOND TERM 1988

<u>Male Classes</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Adv-2	16	11	5
Adv-1	29	16	13
6	50	26	24
5	59	43	16
4	85	70	15
3	110	85	25
2	182	162	21
1	136	110	26
Beg	155	132	23
TOTAL	822	654	168

MALE STUDENTS PASSING = 79.5%

<u>Female Classes</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
6-W	15	10	5
5-W	10	8	2
4-W	39	31	8
3-W	29	27	2
2-W	30	28	2
1-W	39	37	2
Beg	39	34	5
TOTAL	201	175	26

FEMALE STUDENTS PASSING = 87%

ALL STUDENTS PASSING = 81%

During the term 10% of male students dropped out and 6% of females students left the course. The main reasons for dropping out include immigration, joining the fighting in Afghanistan or getting a job.

Some major changes had been made at the ELP by September. A completely new test was introduced at Level 4 to determine whether students should advance to Level 5. The textbook at Level 5 demands better listening and reading skills than Level 4 and the exams are more rigorous with lengthy listening portions. A special Level 4 class was established for those students who did poorly on this exam. They will concentrate on listening, reading and reasoning skills.

The difficult decision to discontinue advanced classes was made at the same time. This eliminated Levels 1A and 2A classes. With both

the Public Administration and Journalism Programs providing opportunities for advanced study in English, administrators felt male students with advanced skills would be best served in the content-oriented classes of these programs. A course specifically devoted to English reading and writing skills is also part of the Public Administration Program.

Other developments included a workshop for teachers on the use of an SRA Reading Laboratory, a graduated independent study system to improve students' reading abilities. A grant from the US Information Service enabled the program to purchase this system. This workshop was so well-received that several instructors took stories home to read. The program anxiously awaits the arrival of its own SRA box laboratories.

A two-day workshop was also held to train more teachers for instructing the intermediate level classes. Major grammar points in the Level 3 and 4 texts were highlighted and different methods for teaching these points were demonstrated and discussed. Teachers gave brief presentations on these points and some participants were chosen to teach these intermediate levels.

On September 17 the third term of 1988 began with a total of 1,185 registered students: 1,013 men and 172 women. The ELP anticipates an 200 additional students when beginner classes start in October. There are now three full time staff members and 44 ad hoc teachers, instructing 62 classes.

LANGUAGE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

From July 31 to August 11 IRC offered a seminar for Dari and Pushto teachers from the seven political parties. Each of the parties was invited to send two Dari and two Pushto teachers. But because schools were on vacation, they were not able to reach all the teachers and a total of 12 students attended.

The seminar was conducted by a professor of Dari and Pushto, who introduced some new techniques. His first impression was that these teachers felt like forgotten stepchildren of IRC. He told them IRC had not been able to find a language teacher able to show them more modern methods before this time.

There have been repeated requests for teacher training and development of curriculum in the Afghan languages, Dari and Pushto, but IRC has only been able to begin responding to these requests this year. As concerned Afghans have pointed out, no methodology for teaching these languages has been developed. At the same time, middle and secondary textbooks consist of mainly ancient poetry that would try the skills of graduate students of literature. The scarcity of resources in this area confronts IRC with a great challenge, but it is a challenge that cannot be ignored. IRC,

however, is fortunate to have obtained the part-time services of this former Kabul University professor who has a great deal of knowledge of the languages themselves as well as language-teaching methodology.

He reported that during a pre-seminar test he found these teachers sticking to their traditional classroom methods -- listening to students read aloud. However, after suggesting some specific ideas -- pre-reading activities, post-reading activities, word games, puzzles and other ideas to center the lesson on the student and make it more interesting -- they became more excited. One problem noted by the professor was that some of the seminar participants were not language teachers.

In their evaluation forms students generally applauded the professor's methods and asked that he provide them with his lecture notes. They also asked that IRC hold longer seminars in the future and requested that IRC provide prepared Pushto and Dari textbooks for classes 7 and 8 and some other texts.

Materials for 7th grade Dari and Pushto texts have been prepared and a Dari grammar book has been submitted for calligraphy. But exercises need to be written and the books need field testing. IRC was only able to find two of the four texts requested but will provide these to the school offices of teachers who participated in the seminar.

The English teacher training segment of this program will begin after the arrival in October of the new manager.

LYCEE MALALAI

During July and August 15 new students registered in different grades and classes began September 4. At present there are 92 students at the school. The 7th grade, which has 29 students, has been divided into two sections to reduce class size. Over the summer 13 students left the schools program: nine went abroad, one got a job, one could not keep up academically and two left because of pregnancy. Other changes include the hiring of a new math and lab teacher. A geography teacher was also hired after the former teacher immigrated to America.

Over the summer, a seminar on teaching methods was held at the school from August 15-29. Teachers were very enthusiastic. They had lectures in general teaching methodology; geography; language teaching; and language games to aid Dari and English teaching.

One of the difficulties of training the women teachers is that many different subjects are taught at the school each by only one or two teachers, so it is difficult to provide focused training. The school principal would like to have another seminar to help improve

teaching and said it might be possible to bring the women to school on a holiday if day care was provided.

The day after the end of the seminar, 70 women -- teachers from the Lycee, the primary school, the ELP and some students went to Islamabad and expressed their condolences to the departed soul of Zia al Haq. They visited his memorial and also his home. During September, when the International Committee of the Red Cross was running short of blood for wounded mujahideen, students at the Lycee donated 12 units of blood.

EXPERIMENTAL SCHOOL

During July and August summer courses continued at the school and the school was painted inside and outside.

An Advisory Board was selected consisting of a member of Jamiat Islami; a member of Hezb e Islami (Moulvi Khalis); the principal or assistant principal of the Experimental School; a teacher from the Experimental School and a member of Hezb e Islami (Hekmatyar).

One of the Board's first tasks was to devise a fair policy for admitting 7th grade students. Last year, in order to judge the effectiveness of the seventh-grade entrance exam in predicting academic success, the school enrolled approximately one-third of the class based on community recommendations.

However at the end of the year, final exam results showed that 88% of the 7th graders admitted by the entrance exam passed all the final exams. Only 61% of the students admitted by recommendation passed all the final exam. Because of this disparity in the success rate a new entrance policy was devised. It ensures that all provinces are represented in an entering class while maintaining good control over the quality of students admitted. The Experimental School attempts to enroll students from as many provinces as possible in an attempt to promote understanding among students from different areas. If these students later move into leadership roles in Afghanistan they will have contacts with people outside their own province, a link that may make administration easier.

Under the new policy, all successful applicants must achieve a minimum score of 35% on an admissions test. Students with a passing score are then admitted by the following formula:

# of students to be accepted into the 7th grade	X	# accepted
<u>total # 7th grade applicants</u>	applicants from =	from
	a single province	province

This summer 167 students took the entrance exam for the 7th grade. At the end of August, based on the new policy, 60 new students from

12 different provinces (of a total 29 provinces in Afghanistan) were accepted into the course. Only three provinces -- Nangarhar, Logar and Kabul -- are represented by more than four students. The other provinces represented are Wardak, Kapisa, Balkh, Kunar, Parwan, Ghazni, Kunduz, Laghman, and Baghlan. The 8th through 12-grade entrance exams were delayed until October 2 since over 150 applicants have applied for 16 vacancies.

The board also created a number of other admission rules.

An interesting footnote to student admissions this month was that a student who had failed 9th grade a year or two ago came to reapply to school. He had been attending the 11th grade in another school after failing at our school, an illustration of varying quality in schools!

The board also decided that representatives for a student government would be selected. The student with the highest mark will represent his class or class section this term with elections planned for future semesters.

In a continuing effort to increase the effectiveness of teaching, the school cut the number of subjects students study from 12 to 15 subjects per semester last year to nine subjects this term. In another change, all 9th to 12th grade math classes, not just trigonometry, will be taught in English. This decision was made partly to systemize the classes and also because more and better math materials are available in English.

In September, make up exams were given to students who failed one or more exams last year. Of the 26 who took the exam, 24 passed.

TEACHER TRAINING AND TEXTBOOKS

Four seminars were completed during the past two months:
June 15-July 14: 41 math & science secondary school teachers from areas outside of Peshawar

July 1-30: 25 science teachers from Commissionerate Middle Schools

July 31-August 30: 33 math & science secondary school teachers from Peshawar

August 7 Sept. 5: 15 math & science teachers from political party middle schools

Pre- and post-seminar exams showed sizeable improvements. There were, however, some difficulties at the Commissionerate Middle School Teachers seminar. Many of the participants were headmasters instead of full-time science teachers and as a group they were not

very motivated. The total average increase in their pre- and post-seminar exams was 28.6% compared to 83.2% for middle school teachers from schools run by political parties. In the future the assistant coordinator said he will insist the Commissionerate send only full-time teachers.

June 15-July 14, 1988
Secondary Teachers from Outside Peshawar

Average Scores Pre & Post Exams	Beginner	Advanced I	Advanced II
Math Test 1	33	27	26
Math Test 2	68	68	56
% Increase	106%	152%	115
Geometry 1	29	39	64.7
Geometry 2	83	70	65.0
% Increase	186%	79.5%	0.5%
Physics 1	44	31	45
Physics 2	80	56	67
% Increase	82%	81%	49%
Chemistry 1	35	16	40
Chemistry 2	75	44	79
% Increase	114%	175%	97.5%
Biology 1	20	23	30
Biology 2	42	57	58
% Increase	110%	148%	93%
Methodology 1	24	36	36
Methodology 2	56	50	49
% Increase	133%	39%	36%
TOTAL INCREASE	121.8%	112.4%	65.2%

July 1-30 -- Commissionerate Middle School Teachers Seminar
Beginner Level Only

Math Test 1	only one		
Math Test 2	test score		
% Increase	available		
Geometry 1	only one	Biology 1	57.5
Geometry 2	test score	Biology 2	70.6
% Increase	available	% Increase	22.8%
Physics 1	52.8	Methodology 1	41.8
Physics 2	88.5	Methodology 2	73.6
% Increase	67.6%	% Increase	76.1%
Chemistry 1	50.6	TOTAL	
Chemistry 2	53.2	AVERAGE	
% Increase	5.1%	% INCREASE	28.6%

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Methodology 1	24	36	36
Methodology 2	56	50	49
% Increase	133%	39%	36%
TOTAL INCREASE	121.8%	112.4%	65.2%

July 31-August 30
Secondary School Teachers From Peshawar

	Beginner	Advanced I	Advanced II
Math Test 1	50	60	68.7
Math Test 2	78	76	80
% Increase	56%	26.6%	16.4%
Geometry 1	46.5	65.7	56
Geometry 2	72	72.7	70
% Increase	54.8%	26.6%	25%
Physics 1	55.7	40	45
Physics 2	80	64.5	64
% Increase	43.6%	61.25%	42.2%
Chemistry 1	29	49.5%	50
Chemistry 2	59.6	78.5%	83.2
% Increase	105.5%	58.5%	66.4%
Biology 1	27	31	39.5
Biology 2	44	43.5	36
% Increase	62.9%	40.3%	-8.8%
Methodology 1	40	43.5	42.5
Methodology 2	65	46	84
% Increase	62.5%	5.7%	97.6%
TOTAL INCREASE	64.2%	33.5%	39.8%

Political Party Middle School Teachers August 7-Sept 5.
Beginner Level Only

Math Test 1			
Math Test 2	not		
% Increase	available		
Geometry 1	25.4	Biology 1	28.7
Geometry 2	66.1	Biology 2	52.87
% Increase	160.2%	% Increase	84.2%
Physics 1	40.35	Methodology 1	37
Physics 2	71.78	Methodology 2	54.82
% Increase	77.9%	% Increase	48.2%
Chemistry 1	35.5	TOTAL	
Chemistry 2	50.6	AVERAGE	
% Increase	45.5%	% INCREASE	83.2%

The following progress was made in textbook preparation during the quarter:

Books printed: 3,000 copies -- 8th grade geometry
3,000 copies -- 11th grade geometry
2,000 copies -- 12th grade math

Books reprinted: 3,000 copies -- 8th grade physics

Submitted for printing: 10th grade geology
12th grade math
11th grade biology

Submitted for calligraphy: 10th grade math
12th grade physics
12th grade chemistry

Classes were also observed at the following schools as part of IRC's school monitoring program: the Nasir Bagh Commissionerate School, Yousof Abad Commissionerate School, Emam Abu Hanifa Lycee, Commissionerate Secondary School at Haripur.

In addition the lab assistant set up a new laboratory at the TTT building this quarter and created a distillation tube from a broken lamp to produce distilled water for lab use. He set up various other experiments and assisted Inter-Party school science teachers.

TEACHERS INSTITUTE

Introductory review courses for students continued with a test given in July and a final exam given in August. The entire review course finished August 18.

Section	Average Score Test 1	Average Score Final Exam	% Increase
Math/Physics	49%	56%	14.3%
Chemistry/ Biology	53%	64%	20.8%

Although the final exam covered more material than the first test the student scores improved, possibly a sign of improvement in study skills, the institute supervisor said. Over the summer students reviewed materials from the 7th to 9th grade using material in texts from those levels.

They also had labwork in physics, chemistry and biology. In biology, for example, students learned the use of the microscope, examining a variety of cells and materials. In physics more than 40 different experiments were used to demonstrate scientific principles, including elasticity, thermal expansion, Pascal's Law, sound transmission and a variety of other topics. In chemistry, 25 different experiments were used.

During their first semester, which began September 4, students will cover some topics from the 7th to 12th grade level but also begin work in new areas. By the second semester all their course work will be at the university level.

CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

August 15th saw the completion of the practical training projects for the Construction Engineering students. After one term in the classroom, 13 students were sent out for training at projects with various voluntary agencies, including IRC. Shortly after the projects began, two students left, one for personal reasons.

Of the remaining 11 students about half were satisfied with their projects and felt they were learning a lot. However the four students working at IRC in Hangu complained that the maintenance program to which they had been assigned was not interesting enough. They were eventually shifted to another project. The two students who were working at Save the Children in Mansera were moved to a job in Haripor at IRC's request after some problems with their living situation.

The students worked at the following agencies:

VITA	Surveying Section/Design Section
Shelter Now Int'l	Building construction
Save the Children	Building construction
DACAAR	Road project
IRC/Hangu	Construction/maintenance

Of the 16 students enrolled in the first year of Construction Engineering training three did not go to practical training because they had failed two or more subjects in their final exams. They were offered remedial classes in order to take make-up exams.

A new group of students was accepted into the program in August. On August 15 an entrance exam was given to 105 students and 48 students were eligible for admission. Eleven of these are graduates of IRC's Experimental School of the Sciences. We expect about 30 students will actually enroll in the pre-Engineering course which begins September 25. Some students will probably decide to enroll instead in an Arab-supported program for medicine and for

engineering because it offers students a monthly stipend as well as room and board.

CONSTRUCTION FOREMEN TRAINING

During August IRC found a large building under construction and rented it to house both the new Construction Foremen Training Program and the Public Administration and men's Journalism Programs. A civil engineer with experience in training and developing rural infrastructures in Honduras, was also hired to run this program and arrived in late September. The program, scheduled to begin sometime this fall, is slated to include both a an 18-month and a 9-month curriculum.

Both programs are less theoretical than the Construction Engineering Program and are designed to teach students who will return to the provinces how to build basic buildings, roads and water systems. An Advisory Board has suggested that the following courses be offered in the program. This curriculum has been sent for review to various field engineers and will be revised based on their recommendations.

18-MONTH PROGRAM

<u>1st Term</u>	<u>2nd Term</u>	<u>3rd Term</u>	<u>4th Term</u>
1) Islamiat	Islamiat	Islamiat	Islamiat
2) English	English	English & Technical Comm.	Technical English
3) Math	Electric Wiring	Architectural Drawing	Quantities/ Cost. Est.
4) Drawing	Construction Drawing	Concrete/ Masonry	Construction Safety
5) Surveying	Surveying	Project Management	Construction of Concrete Structures
6) Material	Construction Material	Layout Surveying	Basic water Supply & Plumbing

9-MONTH PROGRAM

1st Term

- 1) Islamiat
- 2) English
- 3) Applied Math
- 4) Drawing/Technical Sketching
- 5) Measuring/Sight Surveying
- 6) Construction Material
- 7) Basic Water Supply/Plumbing

2nd Term

- Islamiat
English for Technical Students
Construction & Operation
Quantities/Cost Estimation
Working & Construction
Project Management
Concrete & Masonry

INTER-PARTY SCHOOLS

As usual IRC staff paid bills and salaries at the five Inter Party schools. They also had enough funds from the budget to order cloth for students uniforms. The monitors also arranged contracts for bus transportation at the four schools that begin their term in September. After the term began, administrators at several schools said they needed more buses. The monitors, however, said they will wait one month to see if enrollment is stable. Last year, enrollment dropped after the first month and extra buses were not needed.

At Bajaur Lycee, the only school in session during the summer months, mid-term exams finished on July 21. Of the 391 students on the rolls, about 73% or 285 students took the exam. This is probably the real enrollment figure. Of these, 118 passed, a 41.4% success rate. However, during August, the headmaster was absent the entire month; he apparently has gone to jihad, but in connection with a different party, so he won't be returning to the school, the monitor said.

Teachers from the other schools were able to get additional training through IRC on their summer break. Five teachers from Omar Farooq Lycee and five from Seddiq Akbar attended a TTT seminar during August.

At Hazrat Ali, two teachers seeking a post as an English teacher took an exam; the man who scored 90 out of 100 points was hired. With the opening of schools, the monitors counted the following attendance rates at these schools: Hazrat Ali, 69%; Hazrat Osman, 73%; Bajaur, 71%. Monitor checks of attendance figures were not available from the Omar Farooq and Siddiq Akbar for September. Attendance rates are probably low since enrollment was once again inflated.

At the end of September four Inter Party school teachers were fired, two from Omar Farooq, two from Hazrat Osman because they did not attend class for 20 days or more. Exams will be given to hire new teachers in October.

Two monitors each work part-time at monitoring the Inter Party schools. One monitor is also the Program Manager for Teacher Training & Textbooks; the other is also in charge of IRC Education purchasing. With the expansion of the Education Programs, a new Primary Specialist and an Assistant Purchaser need to be hired in order to make this system work smoothly.

HANGU EDUCATION PROGRAM

Community School Program

The Community School Program supports existing schools and new schools in the Hangu area based on requests from community representatives, and representatives of Afghan groups. Books and supplies are provided, as well as teacher training and contributions to teacher salaries. Some of these are full schools with several grades, but many consist of only one or two classes. During July the office in Hangu opened and was equipped. Support staff were hired. The rest of the month was taken up in screening, testing and interviewing applicants for teacher trainer and administrative assistant positions. Because there are very few qualified primary school teacher trainers, selections were made on the applicant's potential.

During the quarter IRC has continued to explain its Hangu programs to various communities. In July staff met with education representatives from Afghan groups in both Hangu and Peshawar. Representatives were concerned that the start up of community classes would draw students away from other schools and create competition among teachers to start classes. They were also concerned about quality of teachers in these new first grade classes and the future expansion of these primary classes.

IRC teacher trainers also visited elders and potential teachers in Kahi, Kortgai (within Kotki camp), Lakhti Banda and Darsamand camps. They explained the program and asked that all requests for classes be submitted prior to any decision being made. Meeting with the elders is a difficult task. There is great suspicion among the people about foreign programs and, since these Afghans work for a foreign organization, they too are sometimes viewed with suspicion and suspected of being non-Islamic. This is very difficult for the teacher trainers, all of whom are devout Muslims. However, they have shown great courage in presenting and explaining the programs in the camps.

Lakhti Banda, a very conservative camp, has indicated that it does not want any classes, but it now appears that since they have gained a better understanding of the program, some of the suspicion has been alleviated.

During August, the staff met with educational representatives from four Afghan groups, including a representative of Commander Haqani who has established many of his own schools. During August these groups submitted information on the schools for which they would like assistance. By far the best information was supplied by the representative from Haqani. In total requests have been received from these groups to assist 14,566 students in 87 schools. A summary of the requests and the number of students for which supplies have been ordered follows:

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM AFGHAN GROUP SCHOOLS
AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1988

CLASS	HARAKAT	JUBHA	MAHAZ	HAQANI	JAMIAT	OTHER	TOTAL	BOOKS ORDERED
1	863	362	1669	1451	523	49	4917	4500
2	710	252	1068	1160	551	19	3760	3500
3	530	199	533	749	366	37	2414	2200
4	357	83	251	526	247	18	1482	1500
5	271	58	140	233	199		901	750
6	243	39	84	106	90		562	600
SUBTOTAL								
PRIMARY								
	<u>2974</u>	<u>993</u>	<u>3745</u>	<u>4225</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>14036</u>	

CLASS	HARAKAT	JUBHA	MAHAZ	HAQANI	JAMIAT	OTHER	TOTAL
7	92	23	89		27		231
8	64	12	14		25		115
9	61	17	11		22		111
10	18	13	10		20		61
11	20		10				30
12	20		10				30
13	46						46
14	28						28
SUBTOTAL SECONDARY							
	<u>349</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>144</u>		<u>94</u>		<u>653</u>

Staff have begun surveying each school prior to delivery of supplies, and are finding that some schools are well-established but others have not even begun.

At first schools in Kohat were surveyed, then those in Kurram and Waziristan.

So far materials have been delivered in the following amounts:

DISTRICT	NO. OF SCHOOLS	NO. OF CLASSES	NO. OF STUDENTS	NO. OF TENTS	NO. OF TARPS
Kohat	21	144	3510	88	121
Kurram	14	75	2091	44	64

Three schools in Kohat District and six schools in Kurram Agency could not be located. All of the schools in Kurram are winter vacation schools so should not need supplies until March 1989. The Afghan groups concerned will be contacted in late October for help in locating these schools.

Staff will continue to visit these latter schools and work group representatives to ensure that schools will actually be started before distributing supplies.

Some of the schools are also religious schools with no secular education and, thus, cannot use the books we have purchased. A separate list of these schools will be compiled along with the books they require. An attempt will be made to purchase some of the

required religious books from money remaining in the budget. Finally, some misconceptions exist about the assistance to be provided by IRC. Many of these schools have been told that IRC is taking over the schools and will supply everything they need. This must be clarified.

During August and September books and supplies for the approximately 13,000 students the program expects to serve were ordered and delivered. This was a major undertaking that has been complicated by the difficulty of getting timely information as to which schools require assistance; delays in receiving supplies; poorly packaged supplies; and a lack of proper storage space in Peshawar.

However, four large truckloads of books, supplies, tents and tarps were shipped from Peshawar to Hangu and at least one more truckload is scheduled to move in October. There (in Hangu), distribution of supplies is handled in the following manner:

After surveying the schools materials are distributed to a teacher or headmaster who signs the receipt forms and is told how to distribute the supplies. In some instances, we are able to get student signatures. Because we cannot actually issue the supplies directly to each student, schools will be monitored to make sure supplies have actually been distributed.

All of the staff have worked long hours and should be commended for their efforts in getting this program started. We also want to thank the German Afghan Committee for providing space for us inside their walled compound in Kurram when previous plans for a staging area for deliveries fell through.

While requests have been received for a number of small community classes, some of the people working with the Community Health Program have advised us that the elders are concerned about piecemeal class start up. IRC has similar concerns and will try to collect all requests for classes before investigating and starting new classes. Because of concerns about the quality of teachers and potential conflicts with existing schools the following policy has been adopted:

- * Start-up of new classes will be delayed until regular schools start in September to ensure that students do not transfer to the IRC school. The only exceptions will be requests for classes where there are no schools or requests where all the students are girls.
- * Classes will run from 8-12 noon to avoid duplicating students in schools.
- * Teachers will be tested, including those already working. Those who are incompetent will not receive further assistance.
- * We will attempt to obtain statements from teachers' Afghan organizations indicating they do not object to the program.

* We will attempt to use teachers who do not already have jobs.

In July five new community education classes were opened in Kotki and supplies distributed for 149 new students, about 40% of whom are girls. In August, one community class was started in a small camp near Kohat. A class in Kahi, supported last year by IRC, has been integrated into the new system. We have suspended starting additional classes until October, as staff are busy with book distribution.

Staff did visit the seven classes in Kata Kanra and found only one teacher teaching. The excuse was a change in classroom hours. A warning was issued and staff will continue to check their classes closely.

We have also had individual requests to assist schools in various areas. A commander named Zahir from Naryab wants to start a school for grades 1-4 in a part of Naryab which is very far from other schools. After meeting with him and surveying the area, we have agreed to support his school and will be supplying tents, tarps, books and supplies and full salaries for three teachers, one head teacher and a security guard.

Another request to support a girls school, grades 1,3 and 4, in Azakhil Camp near Peshawar was received through the principal of the Lycee Malalai. The girls formerly were part of a Jamiat-supported school in the same area. According to the local people, Jamiat refused to support the school if girls continued beyond the third grade. After surveying the school, it was decided that IRC Education should support the school. Supplies will be purchased, and teacher training will be supplied by the Hangu Education Program. Initial inquiries have also been made about starting a mixed boys and girls school in Cap Matar and a girls school in Hangu.

Assistance has also been requested for schools in Kohat, Orakzai, Kurram, Waziristan, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan. Because the latter three areas were beyond the scope of the original proposal, permission has been sought to supply schools in these three areas.

Planning has begun for standardized teacher training seminars. There will be beginning seminars for different levels of elementary school teachers. In addition, specific subject matter, mini-seminars for teaching subjects such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, reading, writing, and Islamiat are planned.

Youth Training/Literacy Program

The last facet of the Hangu program is technical and literacy training for boys and young men. Initial inquiries concerning this

program indicated that youth literacy training must be combined with some vocational training to induce the boys to participate. With the cooperation of the IRC Community Health Worker Program in Hangu, three excellent people have been identified to work in this training program. A training monitor and two teacher trainers joined the program in September. One of the teacher trainers will work in the afternoons for several months before becoming full-time.

The training monitor comes from the Sanitation Program, where he has worked for several years on motivation teams. The two teacher trainees are both former Community Health Supervisors. Follow-up inquiries have been made to the other IRC programs about training positions, and the program managers are in the process of completing the information concerning numbers, educational level, type of position, etc. The trainees will include some girls.

We have met with the Community Health Supervisors from all of the camps and explained the literacy program. They support the program, but all agree it is going to be very difficult to get the backing of the people because of the negative image of literacy classes under the communists, where people were forced to attend classes and learn the tenets of communism. Progress is necessarily slow for this reason.

All three of the staff have a great deal of experience in talking to the people in the camps and have already approached leaders in Kortgai, Lakhti Banda, Mohammed Khoja, Kata Kanra and Kahi camps. There are some people who are interested. We will be trying to meet with the various Afghan groups in October to discuss the program.

Two books -- one a literacy text used inside Afghanistan and the other an Islamic text in Pushto used in Pakistan -- have been chosen to be used in the classes. An outline of a seminar for teachers has been developed. At this point, a lot of thinking is being done about how to select teachers, test them, and train them but no final decisions will be made until we have talked to the Afghan groups and to more camp leaders.

SELF-RELIANCE PROGRAM

BUSINESS INCENTIVES

Despite the many holidays during the quarter, the Business Incentives Program managed to expand its services to seven businessmen, including an embroidery man, a bicycle repair shop, a charpoy maker, a radio repair man, two tin smiths, and a flour miller. Credit to these new businesses totaled Rs. 65,366. Thirty seven businesses are operating and paying back their loans under the program. Two business have graduated from the credit program. Mr. Abdul Qayyum, a sweets maker, successfully paid off his loan of Rs. 6,000 in July, and Mr. Sherin Gul, a twine maker completed his loan payments of Rs. 3000 in September. Six businesses are currently in arrears, but so far, there are no defaulters.

The long holiday due to Moharram and the death of president Zia ul Haq slowed down the purchasing of materials and the collection of loan payments in August, but the pace picked up again in September and eventually everything got done. The fall season is a favorable time for businesses such as mushrooms, handloomng and tin smithing, so it is expected that these businesses will pick up in the coming months.

Of the problems faced by this credit program, some are common amongst all credit agencies, but given the unique circumstances of the refugees, many problems are atypical (to say the least!) and require special adaptation. The Self Reliance Program is in the process of evaluating these problems and modifying the nature of the credit program to accommodate them. One major problem is the seasonality of some of the businesses which receive loans under the project. Sandal makers, for instance, face a big slump in demand during the winter months and accordingly find it difficult to make loan payments during this time. Other businesses which are susceptible to seasonality are mushroom growing and cot making, among others. SRP is exploring the idea of adjusting payments so that this seasonality is taken into account.

Another problem is that loan recipients frequently stop their businesses temporarily to go on "jihad" inside Afghanistan. Sher Hassan, a hand loom weaver who received a loan last December, turned in his loom this quarter to go on "jihad". Two others, including a pottery man and a mushroom grower have left their businesses this quarter to partake in "jihad", and while sometimes a family member can take over the business in their absence, often this is not possible, and loan payments are not made.

Finally, Mr. Sadiq, the project's very capable manager, notes that education for loan recipients in the complexities of business are very much in need. Afghans are not businessmen by tradition and

when faced with hard issues of market competition, pricing, advertising, etc, they do not fair very well.

CONSTRUCTION

July, August and September were banner months for the construction team. A total of 17.07 kms of secondary roads were constructed. In addition, the construction of a health clinic was completed, as was that of two middle schools and a primary school. Maintenance work on three clinics, twelve schools, and a number of warehouses was completed. The construction project undertook a large contract in September to build and install fifty "in-settlement stores" in fifty refugee camps. These will be large structures made of steel girders and corrugated steel siding used to store supplies, crops, machinery, etc in each camp. Installation of the stores began in late September.

In all, a total of 22,773 person days of labour were employed, and 1,034 families received a total of Rs.1,551,000 during the quarter.

Other news for the period is that four interns from the construction and engineering education project successfully completed their summer internships in mid-August. They participated in all facets of the Hangu project and learned some useful "hands on" skills that will help them better complete their course of studies in Peshawar.

The construction project is undergoing a change in management due to the departure of Engineer Saboor for his new home in Canada. While his energetic management skills and his engaging wit will be sorely missed, he has left behind a cadre of very competent engineers who are capable of keeping up the solid reputation Saboor has established for the project.

AGRICULTURE/ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Kitchen Gardening

With the abundant summer rains, the refugees were able to pull in a healthy crop of vegetables in August. Now the focus is on the fall vegetable planting. 9,009 families received turnip, radish, spinach, and coriander seeds in August and September, and 9,557 families received consultations from the program's 16 extension workers.

September witnessed a small breakthrough in plant politics. After months of negotiating and cajoling, Mr. Ehsanullah, IRC's Agricultural manager, won approval from the leader of Kotki II to establish an extension workers' office and demonstration plot in

this camp. The Facility will be built near Kotki II's Basic Health Unit.

Forestry

10,490 eucalyptus and locana trees were distributed to 3,597 families during the quarter. Agricultural workers have intensified work on the forestry plantation, mainly through planting more eucalyptus trees, with the intent of meeting their promised goal of 100,000 shade trees distributed before the end of the year. A new more effective method for germinating the eucalyptus seeds has been adopted in which the seeds sprout in two days rather than the old period of two weeks. In the new process the seeds are initially planted in pits and misted with water sprayers. The seeds are kept moist by covering them with clear plastic tarps.

The planting of fruit trees for distribution to the refugees continues. Pomegranate and almond plantings in particular have developed into healthy stands, and will be distributed to the camps in the spring. Mr. Ehsanullah, the manager of the agriculture program, points out that the refugees (especially those from the eastern provinces of Afghanistan) prefer to plant fruit trees rather than shade trees because this is what they are most familiar with. To overcome their reluctance to plant shade trees, Ehsanullah tells them that they are shade/fruit trees.

Animal Husbandry

The paraveterinarians continue to vaccinate camp chicks and animals. Over 40,000 chicks and 377 domestic animals were vaccinated during the quarter. For now, medicine and equipment for treatment of diseases are available in good supply, although the cost of treatment is quite high for the refugees. Cows continued to be fertilized by the five breeding bulls. A new building at the IRC farm near Hangu has been completed for two of the bulls. A part of the building will be used as a storage room for seeds, fertilizer and chemicals - a most welcome facility.

Unfortunately, the honey bee project has been terminated, with the last of the hives sold off in August. The rest of the beekeeping equipment is up for sale. The failure of this project was partially due to the poor health of the bees, as well as the inexperience of the extension worker who was assigned to oversee the project.

Surveys

Two agricultural surveys are now underway which will help IRC plan for possible future assistance inside Afghanistan when the refugees return home. The first is being conducted by Paul Heinzen, a recently hired volunteer with a background in statistics. He is conducting a survey in the camps with the help of seven refugees, who are collecting data pertaining to farming conditions before the war, and the perceived farming needs of the refugees upon arrival back in Afghanistan. This survey was thoroughly tested and revised before the surveyors began interviews in the camps in mid September. The second survey, which will be conducted inside Afghanistan, is still in its formative stage. The purpose of this survey is to discern from villagers in Nangarhar, Paktia and Logar provinces the agricultural conditions now prevailing in their particular areas.

PRINTING PRESS

July, August, and September were busy months for the printing press. The total value of production for the quarter was Rs.1,574,550. The larger orders came from a printing of "Where There Is No Doctor" for the Austrian Relief Committee, the printing of an immunization book for the Health Education Resource Center, a Dari field manual for the German-Afghan Committee, and a Pushto text book for the Education Center for Afghans.

Six people were hired temporarily in August to help cover the extra production of text books which occurred in that month. Previously, the press' monthly capacity had been 42,000 texts; in August this was upped to 45,000. The press staff welcomed the September arrival of Paul Morneauld, a new staff member from the U.S. who has expertise in color printing. He will be using his skills first to improve the quality of the half tone black and white printing, and then to help begin the production of color layouts, as well as to trouble shoot and fine tune other aspects of the press.

HANDICRAFTS

July and August were slow months for handicraft producers, due to very hot weather and numerous holidays. 303 women from five camps are now participating in the program. Monthly sales were respectable, at Rs.37,527 in July, Rs.75,425 in August, and Rs.36,315 in September.

The Kahi Handicraft Center remains closed. Feelings are still too hot to approach camp elders about reopening the centers, although the women of these camps are asking the IRC staff to return. The Handicraft Project has been a big breakthrough for these women, not so much for the work or the amount of money they earn, but for the

social exposure and experience they are gaining from making and selling their products. Despite the resistance it has encountered, the program has been very beneficial and its director, Mrs. Majid, would like to see it carried into Afghanistan when the refugees return.

Efforts are being made to create exporting capacity for the project. Other handicraft projects with more experience in this field, such as the one operated by Save the Children, have provided advice on how to proceed. However, several major obstacles, such as establishing a consistent supply of raw materials and creating a dependable work force that produces standard quality work, must be overcome before a viable export operation can become a reality.

HEALTH EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

This quarter new staff were added to the Health Education Resource Center (HERC), and it is anticipated that approximately five more employees will join the Center during October. By the end of October HERC will have a staff of sixteen.

Structural adjustments to the present HERC building continued during the quarter. Only a few finishing touches are still to be done before the building is completed.

SILKSCREEN PROJECT

During this quarter, the silkscreen operation funded by UNICEF took shape. In this project HERC will produce color health education posters for the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP), voluntary agencies working with Afghan refugees and for organizations working inside Afghanistan. The posters will be single message posters which are easily portable, washable, and which resist tearing. Topics for the posters will focus on the main target disease i.e. the six preventable childhood diseases and Control of Diarrheal Disease (CDD), as well as on nutrition education, personal hygiene and sanitation education.

The first two silkscreen posters to be produced are remakes of some done by UNICEF in Baluchistan. These posters have been redone to conform to the clothing and utensils seen in the NWFP and have been pretested in Pakistani villages by the HERC artists and health educator along with UNICEF staff. One poster depicts the importance of breastfeeding, and the other the importance of handwashing. A third showing the importance of weaning foods and three immunization posters will follow. A total of 16,000 posters will be produced in the next year.

During the quarter arrangements were made for a Master Silkscreener from another organization to train HERC staff. Additionally paints and chemical supplies were purchased from Lahore, and the search for a building in which to house the project began. In early October, a lease will be signed on a house in Shaheen Town (a suburb of Peshawar near University Town) which meets the requirements of the project.

UNHCR/UNICEF WORKSHOP ON HEALTH EDUCATION MATERIALS

A two-day workshop on the production and use of health education materials was held in late August. The focus of the workshop was to increase the participants' awareness of the importance of behavioral research and pretesting of materials in order to increase their effectiveness.

Recommendations from the workshop participants included support for HERC to become the major coordinating body in the NWFP for the production of materials. Policy guidelines will be developed by UNHCR in connection with voluntary agencies in the NWFP and Baluchistan. A coordinating body comprised of those voluntary agencies producing materials in Peshawar, the Project Director Health, and other Government of Pakistan (GOP) bodies will then be convened. This group will meet on October 20 to consider the individual health messages which should be stressed and the media of the materials (poster, flipchart, booklet, slide presentation, video, etc.) on the topic of Nutrition and Growth Monitoring.

The HERC was given support at the workshop to hire additional staff in order to accomplish its new tasks. UNICEF arranged to fund an additional position, a health educator who will act as a Materials Development Specialist. This position has been filled by a trained health educator who also has background in anthropology and art. This staff member will work with the Coordinating Body of agencies producing health education materials and conduct behavioral research and do pretesting of new materials. She plans to arrive the last week of October.

AFGHAN SCHOOL CHILDREN PROJECT

The health educator for this project arrived in Peshawar August 1. After reviewing the plan of action for this project, she felt it necessary to carry out preliminary behavioral research before proceeding too far with materials. She reviewed readers for grades 1, 2 and 3 developed by ad hoc staff, and decided to put the production of readers for grades 1 and 2 on hold, pending an ACBAR Education Subcommittee decision to develop them. Stories on nutrition for grade 3 and sanitation for grade 4 are being developed. Both HERC artists are preparing illustrations for these stories. Two other stories have been written and illustrated, and are being pretested. A third story will be ready for illustration by the first week of October.

Pretesting has begun in both Afghan refugee schools and Pakistani schools in Chitral. Plans are being made to return to Chitral to continue pretesting, expand the pretesting area around Peshawar to include non-IRC camps and schools, and to begin pretesting in schools in IRC camps Hangu. The HERC artists participated successfully in the pretesting of their own work for the first time during September, and they will continue to accompany the health educator in the field.

Two ad hoc persons have been hired for this project. A translator of Farsi stories and folktales has been added, as well as a young woman who will take pictures of women and girls for use as reference materials for the artists. In the meantime, the health

educator is sifting through translations of folktales, volumes of tales and books of games and other activities.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Plans were made for a four-day artists' workshop sponsored by the HERC and UNICEF to be held in mid-November. Participants will include the HERC artists, and those from Save the Children (UK) and UNICEF, as well as from other voluntary agencies. Health educators from HERC and a representative of UNICEF will be chairing the sessions. The participants will learn about the pretesting process, receive art assignments during which they will critique each other's work, and then go into the field for actual pretesting. The aim of the workshop is to upgrade the skills of Afghan and Pakistani artists in Peshawar who are working on visual materials for health education teaching aids.

A July edition of the "Peshawar Health Ed. Communicator" was produced and distributed. More organizations participated this time with news items to include. In the first three days after distribution of the Newsletter, representatives of six organizations came to HERC to buy, borrow or view the new audio visual materials advertized in the Newsletter. An October edition is planned.

During August, the HERC Coordinator made a trip to Hangu in order to discuss the curriculum for the new health worker training which hopes to train 1,000 people to assist their communities. The worker will focus on preventive health instead of curative medicine. The new health worker returning to his village inside Afghanistan would not carry medicines or a kit. He would teach his fellow villagers about nutrition education, traditional medicine, the importance of immunization, personal hygiene and sanitation education. The concepts of prevention, teaching/learning, health education and use of materials will be included in his training.

Following the meeting, a concept paper for a Public Health Worker program was written, and a Program Manager is being sought. The HERC will work closely with the Program Manager to develop curriculum as well as health education materials for training, especially videos and slide programs in the languages of Pushto and Farsi.

PRODUCTION OF HEALTH EDUCATION MATERIALS:

The ARC Manual in progress during the quarter, "Prevention is Better Than Cure" (Pushto), has been finished and sent to ARC. They are taking charge of the production process and will send it to press. A total of 387 pages was put into calligraphy. With

this project, the HERC generated Rs. 7,740, not counting illustrations.

The Afghan Pushto version of the Sprayer Project for UNHCR Islamabad is also finished, and copies were sent to them for proofreading.

The Drugs are Dangerous and Parents and Their Children booklets in Pushto have also been finished. Copies will not be printed, but will be photocopied for those agencies wishing samples. The AIDS booklet in Pushto has been completed.

The artists have made four pretest copies of the first two posters which will be silkscreened, both for the NWFP and for inside Afghanistan. They have also made pretest copies of immunization posters for AVICEN and posters on ORS for Shelter Now. Many drawings have been made for pretesting in the project for Afghan school children.

The HERC received finished copies of a personal hygiene poster done by staff artists some months ago. Pakistani Red Crescent Society contracted with HERC to do a poster with both positive and negative aspects of personal hygiene which they then had printed. This poster shows a young boy using the latrine, washing his hands with soap and staying healthy, as well as a scene of what happens when unhygienic practices are followed.

The Index of Where There Is No Doctor will be completed by the the original translator (no longer working for the H.E.R.C.) who has agreed to finish the project on an ad hoc basis.

The printed Malaria charts were withheld from general distribution because of artistic imperfections and problems with inadequate pretesting. The plan is to redo them after testing them further. However, they are being released to selected agencies which have allowed the use of their clinic or camp populations for testing, and agencies which can use the technical section on the life cycle of the mosquito. UNICEF is interested in documenting the process of the testing in order to produce a pretesting manual which they will consider funding.

SALE OF HEALTH EDUCATION MATERIALS:

During August, the HERC generated Rs. 21,855 from the sale of health education materials, and in September an additional Rs. 22,546:

Six Diseases Booklet	- 3236 copies	:
TB Booklet	12 copies	
Diarrhea Booklet	15 copies	
10 School Health Lessons Flipchart	4 copies	

Farsi Lab Manual	119 copies
Your Teeth	3 copies
Where There Is No Dentist (Farsi)	230 copies
Cassette, "Prescription for Health"	4 copies
Photocopies (not including Hangu)	261 copies

Many other copies of materials were given out free of cost to the following agencies: Save the Children (UK), Pak German, Human Concern, ARC, Shelter Now, National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, MSF Belgium, AHSAO, Muslim Aid, Help the Afghans, Hezbi-Islami, and Catholic Relief Services, Freedom Medicine, AVICEN, SERVE, MTA and DACAAR.

Last month the HERC received a manuscript for Where There Is No Dentist in Pushto from Mercy Corps of Quetta. After sending out a query to all voluntary agencies concerning the feasibility of putting into calligraphy the completed manuscript, the HERC received orders for over 200 copies. It has, therefore, been decided to begin calligraphy on this manuscript in early October.

RURAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On June 1, 1988 the Rural Assistance Program (RAP) was created through the signing of a Cooperative Agreement between IRC and USAID.

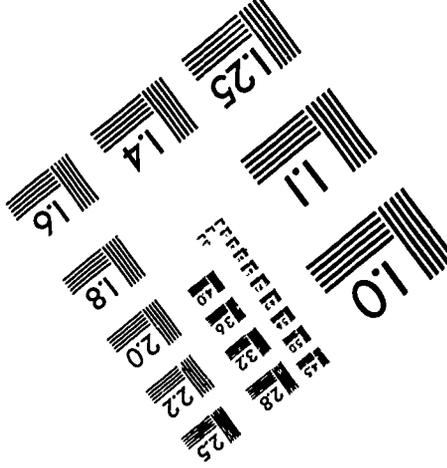
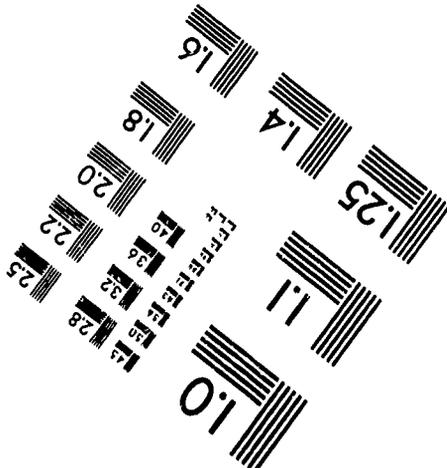
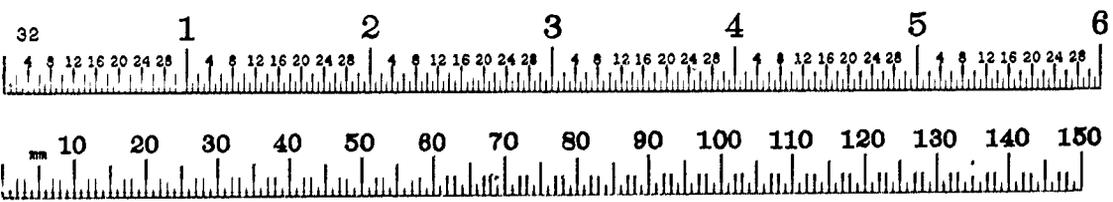
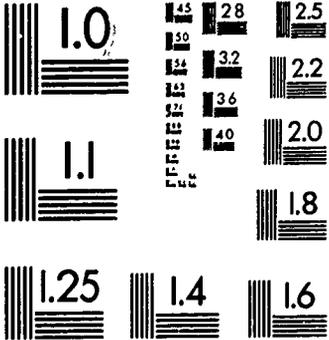
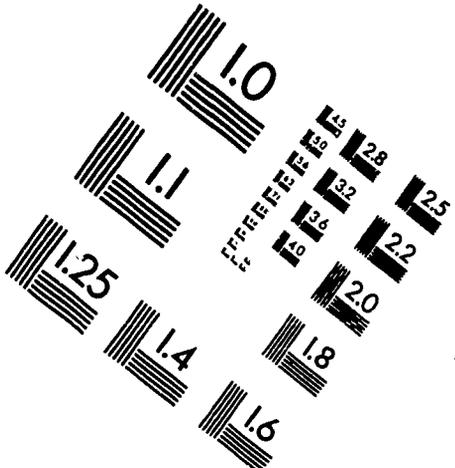
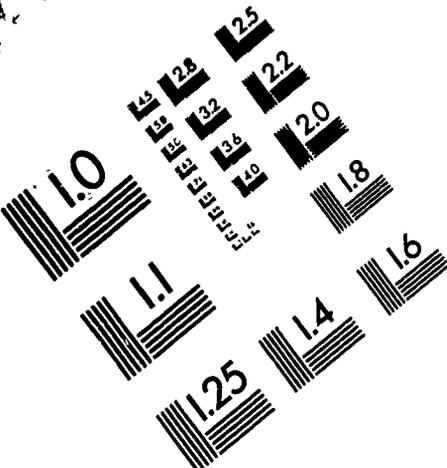
The goal of the program is to assist war-affected Afghans who have remained in Afghanistan and Afghans who are returning to their villages from refugee camps in Pakistan. RAP provides grants to qualified private voluntary agencies (PVO's) to support rural assistance activities, increase agricultural productivity and rural income. RAP oversees and administers these grants. The projects implemented by the PVO's cover almost all the regions of Afghanistan. Such projects comprise the distribution of cash for food and provision of other basic necessities to the neediest, the support of agricultural needs and development, the reconstruction of irrigation canals, roads and farms and the assistance needed by refugees who wish to return to their homeland.

The following is a summary of RAP activities up to this time:

1. Set up formats (narrative, financial and budget) to harmonize the otherwise disparate information needed from the PVO. This is both valuable for the program as well as an obligation to RAP grantors.
2. Various pieces of necessary office equipment (computer photocopier, etc.) were purchased.
3. Proposals were submitted by several PVO's and were studied. Many of the proposals were good. Difficult choices had to be made as the amount of funds available did not match all the requests received. Subsequently, a criteria for selection was determined and a cut in the budget proposals was made. The process of receiving and reviewing proposals is an on-going part of RAP work.
4. This quarter saw the attribution of a large sum of money to a French organization for missions in the Northeast and South of Afghanistan. This project includes cash for food, cash for work, irrigation and distribution of agricultural commodities.
5. Thought is being given to the way in which to achieve a balance between the ever present necessity of relief projects (in the form of cash for food) and long term plans (in the form of development programs).
6. Some unliquidated old grants were finally settled.
7. Ideas and plans were laid out for monitoring the PVO's.

8. A consultant was hired on a temporary basis for the training of monitors, and to provide information on interviewing and surveying techniques.

IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



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