WFP Video Release

22 February 2012

WFP FOOD MOVES BY CAMEL IN HARSH AFGHAN WINTER

A particularly harsh winter – combined with food shortages due to a severe drought and failed harvests – is pushing more and more vulnerable Afghan families deeper into hunger, especially those living in remote areas.

By March WFP aims to have provided food for 1.2 million of the most vulnerable Afghan people already affected by last year’s drought across 14 provinces of Afghanistan, as they struggle to make it through the winter and to the next harvest.

In the first half of January, in many parts of Afghanistan (including most of the drought-affected provinces) more snow fell than during the same period last year. In some remote areas, camels are used to transport the food from the WFP distribution point.

WFP has planned for the onset of winter conditions in Afghanistan by pre-positioning food in areas where it knows access becomes a challenge at this time of year.

High food prices in Afghanistan are also adversely affecting vulnerable people with limited economic means and limited access to food.

TRT: 2:15
Shot 9 February, 2012
Kokjar village, Samangan Province, Afghanistan

00:00-15 Mazar Province
driving through mountains
Wide shot of snowy roads

00:15-35:00
Grain stores / GVs food distribution and registration /
Crowd waiting / child registering
SOT SILKE BUHR WFP spokesperson
“The people who have come here to the distribution point to collect food are facing some incredibly difficult circumstances at the moment. Not only did they lose most of their crops last year when the rains failed and the harvest failed but in the last couple of weeks the temperatures have really dropped, the snow is coming and the living conditions are just incredibly difficult.”

SOT MULLAH KHAIR MOHAMMED–WFP Beneficiary
“During the last two weeks, more people have been affected by the snow – some people suffer quite badly – the winter brings lots of changes in the lives of people living here.”

SOT LOUIS IMBLEAU –WFP Afghanistan Country Director
Kabul Shot: 12 Feb 2012
“WFP is assisting some 1.2 million afghans in this first phase of our drought response. This is a particularly difficult time as these individuals are not only affected by lack of food from a very poor harvest last year but also very severe winter conditions.”

WFP is the world’s largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people in more than 70 countries.

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