



(Above) Army Maj. Michelle Flores, a 10th Mountain Division doctor supporting Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan, blows bubbles as an Afghan child bats them away with his balloon. (Below) A brother gives his sister a piggy-back ride at the refugee camp.

Eggers troops help rebuild hope in refugee camp

Story and photos by Senior Airman Stacia Zachary
 Combined Security Transition Command — Afghanistan
 Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan — In a recent volunteer community relations trip to a refugee camp in Dar ul Aman, Kabul, more than 70 coalition forces gathered to entertain children as food and other supplies were distributed to the adults.

“Visits such as this one help us rebuild Afghanistan and restore their hope that the world has not forgotten them,” said Army Chaplain (Maj.) Andrew Harewood, Combined Security Transition Command — Afghanistan chaplain. “We need to rebuild lives, not just buildings. Today we helped achieve this.”

While adults received much-needed supplies, children were distracted by the volunteers who



went on the trip. Some servicemembers read books with help from translators while others blew up balloons and handed out stickers. Lawn bowling and soccer games were being played in the open lot at the back of the building as well.

“It was amazing,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Shannon Layman, deployed from the 2nd Mission Support Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La. “I wanted to do something for the Afghans while I’m here and being able to play with the children was as (enjoyable) to me as I think it was for them.”

Once the foodstuffs and other supplies were doled out, a child took volunteers on wheelbarrow rides as snowball fights broke out across the encampment. The volunteers, who left smiles on the faces of children and adults alike, sent a message to the Afghans at the Dar ul Aman

(Right) A child uses an empty wheelbarrow to cart off his prized red balloon.



(Below) Jemeena, a 7-year-old resident of the Dar ul Aman refugee camp, sits with the rice and other supplies given to her family.



refugee camp: the world cares.

“Although we are here to fight a war, it’s nice to be able to interact with the people and make a difference on their level,” said Navy Lt. Tracey Dronet, CSTC-A Police Reform Directorate. “Children really are the same anywhere you go – they want to play and they like to smile and laugh. It felt good to be a part of that.” 

Photos available upon request to stacia.c.zachary@afghan.swa.army.mil

An Army staff sergeant consoles an Afghan child after a snowball fight got a little too rough.

