

WORKSHEET ON POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION – HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

Definition: A state needs to provide its citizens the basics needed for survival. Immediately after a conflict, thousands of people may be injured, refugees, or otherwise unable to provide themselves and their families with food, water, medical treatment, shelter, and other living requirements. Also, the destruction of the infrastructure means that even people who are healthy and have remained in their homes may no longer have water, electricity for cooking, etc. Therefore, international relief organizations must be allowed to assist in resolving humanitarian and refugee crises until the government can reestablish basic services to its people.

1. What are the special postwar needs within Afghanistan since 2001? (What has been destroyed, and what is the human impact of the conflict?) In what areas has the destruction been worst?
2. What are the major groups in Afghanistan, and what are their determining characteristics (language, religion, etc.)? Have any of these groups suffered more than others because of the war (either because of their geographical location or because they were victims of persecution)? How would you make sure that humanitarian aid gets to EVERYONE who needs it?
3. How many people are living as refugees, either in other countries or in other parts within their own country? Where are they living, and what kind of assistance would they need in order to return home?
4. Which international organizations have been involved in providing humanitarian aid to the country? What have they accomplished, and what still needs to be done?
5. How do issues of security, governance, the infrastructure, etc. relate to the need for and receiving of humanitarian aid?
6. If you could suggest **THREE** changes or courses of action, what would you do and how would you do it? What kind of support (political, financial, organizational) would you need to be successful?

Some websites that may help you:

- a wonderful short article: http://www.akdn.org/afghanistan_assistance.asp
- list of groups providing humanitarian aid: <http://www.givespot.com/ask/afghanistan.htm>
- a series of documents on humanitarian projects in Afghanistan (look down the list to see the *kinds* of issues they are addressing): <http://www.hawca.org/main/en/projects-footermenu-51/38-implemented-projects.html>
- health concerns – Doctors without Borders: <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/publications/article.cfm?id=4311&cat=special-report>