

Three Wishes of the Afghan people

Internally displaced people in southern Afghanistan were asked to express three wishes to the international community.

“If I could ask three things to the international community, it would be: to provide us with shelter, give us food and provide us with wells for drinking water. That’s all we need!”

Khan Mohamad
Marghar camp, Kandahar province

“I need a tent. I need food for my children. They are hungry. I don’t have anything. We need food. We need medicines. I’m begging to get money to feed my children. I don’t have anyone but God.”

Mahboobay (woman)
Marghar camp, Kandahar province

“What would I ask for? I would ask for food, clothes and shelter. I cannot ask for a house because neither the Taliban nor you will provide me with it. My children are spending the nights in the cold, so I need a shelter for them.”

Hosai (woman)
Marghar camp, Kandahar province

“What shall I say, there are so many things that I need! I don’t have any shelter, I don’t have anything to feed of my children. It has been five years since my husband died, and since then I have never had meat to eat. What should I tell you? What should I complain about to you? Anything you could provide me would be appreciated!”

Bebai Sakera (woman)
Kandahar City camp, Kandahar province

“If the government and the foreigners were kind to us, I would ask for three things: I don’t have shelter, I don’t have enough food to feed my children and we have problems with drinking water. If they do this for us, it will be their greatness!”

Haji Noor Ali
Kandahar City camp, Kandahar province

“The first important thing for Afghan people is security. Without security, gold becomes dust. The second thing they should pay more attention to the reconstruction work and jobs for Afghans. The third one is education; we want our kids to be provided with a proper education.”

Mohamad Akbar Khakrezwal
Khakrez District, Kandahar province

“If I could ask for three things for my people, first would be to find jobs for them, because

unemployment is behind the insurgency and many other social troubles. Secondly I would ask for them to built factories to provide work, and then to find alternative farming to poppy.”

Mohammad Gul
Sharwalai District, Helmand Province

“We are facing many troubles at this camp. It’s cold. I didn’t have anything to warm my tent last night. We don’t have enough food or, drinking water.”

Mirza Mohammad
Maydan camp, Helmand province

“We are hungry! If I were to take you to my home you wouldn’t even find a grain of wheat. Everything we had was left in the village. We are now in this desert. We share one tent for ten people. During the day time I polish shoes in the city making less than one dollar per day, which can barely feed my family a meal.”

Belal
Maydan camp, Helmand province

“My first wish will be the International Community shall not leave Afghanistan. The second one would be that they shall help Afghan local people. And my personal one would be to leave from Afghanistan where I have already survived two suicide attacks.”

Jamila Niazi, Female Principal of girls school
Lashkar Gah, Helmand province

“I want foreigners to do three things for my people: first to bring security, second to help the poor Afghan people, and third to provide education for our kids. If we get these three things, everything would get better.”

Commander Hadji Fazel Mohammad
Lashkar Gah, Helmand province

“I would ask for security for my people, education for kids and an irrigation system for farmers.”

Alawodin Sherzai
Alseraj District, Helmand province

“I would ask for three things from foreigners. Afghan local people are very poor and hungry. They need food and water, and they need schools for their children.”

Neka Khan
Mukhtar camp, Helmand province

“I would ask foreigners for food to feed our starving children, we need food for them and we need shelter for them.”

Alahdad
Mukhtar camp, Helmand province

“I don’t have shelter; all I want is shelter for my children.”

Anonymous
Mukhtar camp, Helmand province

“All I need is food for my children they are starving and dying.”

Malik Nasrullah
Mukhtar camp, Helmand province