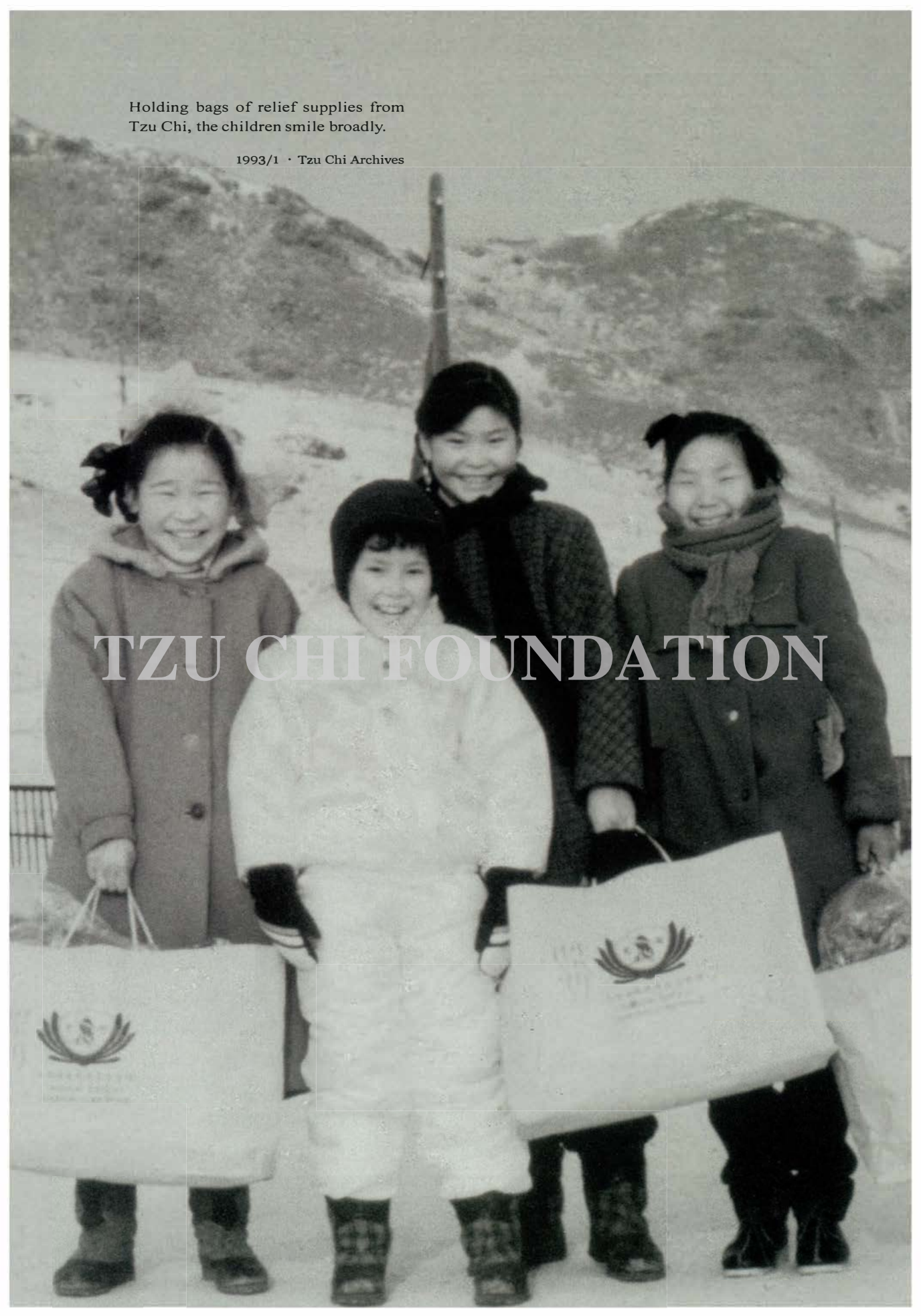


Holding bags of relief supplies from
Tzu Chi, the children smile broadly.

1993/1 · Tzu Chi Archives

TZU CHI FOUNDATION



Outer Mongolia

Severe cold and lack of necessities

Project time: December 1992

Aid provided: Necessities of life

In the Outer Mongolian highlands, bounded by Russia on the north and China on the south, food production is difficult due to long winters that often span six months. Politically and economically, Outer Mongolia had long been dependent on the support of Russia. When the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1990, it withdrew food production equipment and technical assistance from the region. Consequently, Outer Mongolia suffered from the severe lack of the necessities of life.

The director of the International Red Cross in Outer Mongolia traveled to Taiwan in August 1992 to seek aid from Tzu Chi. He observed that as cold weather set in, the situation in Outer Mongolia was worsening. Insufficient food supplies had rendered the people half-starved. Because the region could not produce powdered milk and nutritious dietary supplements, twenty thousand infants under the age of one faced death from malnutrition.

A Tzu Chi fact-finding team twice traveled to Outer Mongolia to investigate the situation. They found that among infants under the age of one, thirty percent were malnourished, and close to twenty thousand orphans and sixty thousand children from single-parent families were in dire need of daily necessities. The foundation therefore decided to focus on impoverished single-parent families, orphans and old people as its aid recipients.

In Taiwan, the foundation called for children to save their pocket money and donate it to help the suffering children in Outer Mongolia. The public responded with enthusiasm. In two month's time, more than eight thousand cans of powdered milk



and funds for large quantities of warm undergarments, jackets, trousers, hats, socks and blankets were raised.

Thirty-nine tons of clothing was to be manufactured or purchased in China and sent to Outer Mongolia within a month.

The original plan was to deliver the clothes by train, but the railway authorities declined to do so on account of the frequent loss of goods at the borders of Outer Mongolia. The foundation therefore resorted to air freight. However, planned delivery times coincided with the Christmas and New Year holidays, which complicated negotiations with airport authorities. Operations were stalled until after much lobbying, the Beijing government finally ordered that chartered flights for Tzu Chi be arranged. After four days of working around the clock, the goods were finally delivered to Outer Mongolia.

On New Year's Eve 1992, Tzu Chi volunteers traveled from Taiwan to Outer Mongolia, where temperatures had dropped to minus thirty degrees Celsius (-22 F). Aided by the local chapter of the Red Cross, a women's committee and the national children's center, the distribution mission was duly carried out. The operation brought warmth for a new year that would otherwise have been very cold.



When the adults are out at work, the elder children in the family look after their younger siblings. Due to food shortages, most of the children are malnourished.

1992/11 · Lin Wei-hsien

In temperatures as low as -29°C (-20F), the children have only these thin clothes to wear.

1992/11 · Lin Wei-hsien





TZU CHI FOUNDATION

Chronic famine resulted in one third of the child population being malnourished. Orphans suffer the worst, their heads disproportionately large in contrast to their emaciated legs.

1999/1 · Wang Chih-hung

North Korea

Famine

Project time: January 1998-May 2000

Aid provided: Rice, canned food, powdered milk, farming equipment and winter clothes

Beginning in 1994, North Korea endured consecutive years of natural disasters. Heavy rains, droughts and tsunamis seemed to always hit right before harvest season, leading to severe food shortages. According to statistics compiled by international organizations, in the six years since 1994, hundreds of thousands of people have died from starvation or malnutrition.



Between January 1998 and March 2000, Tzu Chi sent aid to North Korea seven times. Relief items included rice, canned food, powdered milk, fertilizer, farming equipment and winter clothes.

In September 1999, two months before Tzu Chi's sixth relief mission in North Korea, Taiwan was hit by a massive earthquake. Although the foundation devoted full efforts to emergency relief and reconstruction work on the island, the original plan to distribute rice in North Korea was duly carried out in the spirit of good faith.

In socialist North Korea, people rely on the government's rationing system for food, clothing and housing. In the past, international humanitarian organizations were not allowed to enter the country to deliver relief items. Only a simple donation ceremony would be held at the port of entry. But on Tzu Chi's sixth relief mission, the North Korean government decided to respect the foundation's principle of

directness in carrying out humanitarian assistance and granted entry to fifty Tzu Chi volunteers, who went to the countryside and personally distributed rice to over forty thousand families. It was an event to be remembered for both the North Korean people and Tzu Chi.

Agriculture and manufacturing are the two main sources of North Korea's national income. In the spring and summer of 1999, Tzu Chi donated chemical fertilizers in three phases, in accordance with the different stages of cultivation such as sowing and planting seedlings. This method contributed to a great increase in rice yields in the principle agricultural zones. Sufficient food intake helped laborers regain energy and get back to work.

North Koreans rely heavily on rice as a staple food source. Yet in 1999, of all the international relief organizations that together donated almost ten thousand tons of food, only Tzu Chi provided rice. The citizens of the city of Kaichuan, one of Tzu Chi's distribution sites, were overjoyed to have rice to eat again. One local remarked, "I am going to save this rice for special occasions such as national holidays or my children's birthdays."



The government unprecedentedly allowed Tzu Chi volunteers to directly hand the relief supplies to its people. At the distribution site, group activities are carried out with enthusiasm.

1999/6 · Shen Wan-ching



People help each other to load bags of rice into carts, which are then hauled or pushed back to the village.

1999/12 · Lee Wei-huang



A child studies a letter from Master Cheng Yen expressing her sympathy and best wishes.

1999/12 · Lee Wei-huang

Armed young soldiers guard the relics of
ancient Buddhist sculptures.

1998/5 · Wang Chih-hung

TZU CHI FOUNDATION



Afghanistan

Poverty

Project time: February 1998-May 1998

Aid provided: Medical supplies

Long-term war in Afghanistan impoverished certain regions. Bamiyan Province, situated in the highlands, is one such place. The five or six million people residing in the area depend entirely on neighboring provinces such as Takhar for medical care and daily necessities. On February 4, 1998, an earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale shook Takhar, killing five thousand people and making thirty thousand people homeless. Bamiyan was left with no outside aid whatsoever.

In February and May the same year, Tzu Chi worked with Knightsbridge International to deliver antibiotics and other medicines to Bamiyan, enough for at least thirteen thousand people. A generator was donated to a local school, and twenty-four stethoscopes were given to a local clinic and the medical department of the University of Bamiyan.

The executive officer of this relief operation, Hsieh Ching-kui, told of an incident which impressed him deeply. In a small rural clinic established by a Belgian missionary, all the foreign medical staff had left to avoid the perils of war. Only a doctor and her husband had stayed behind. For six

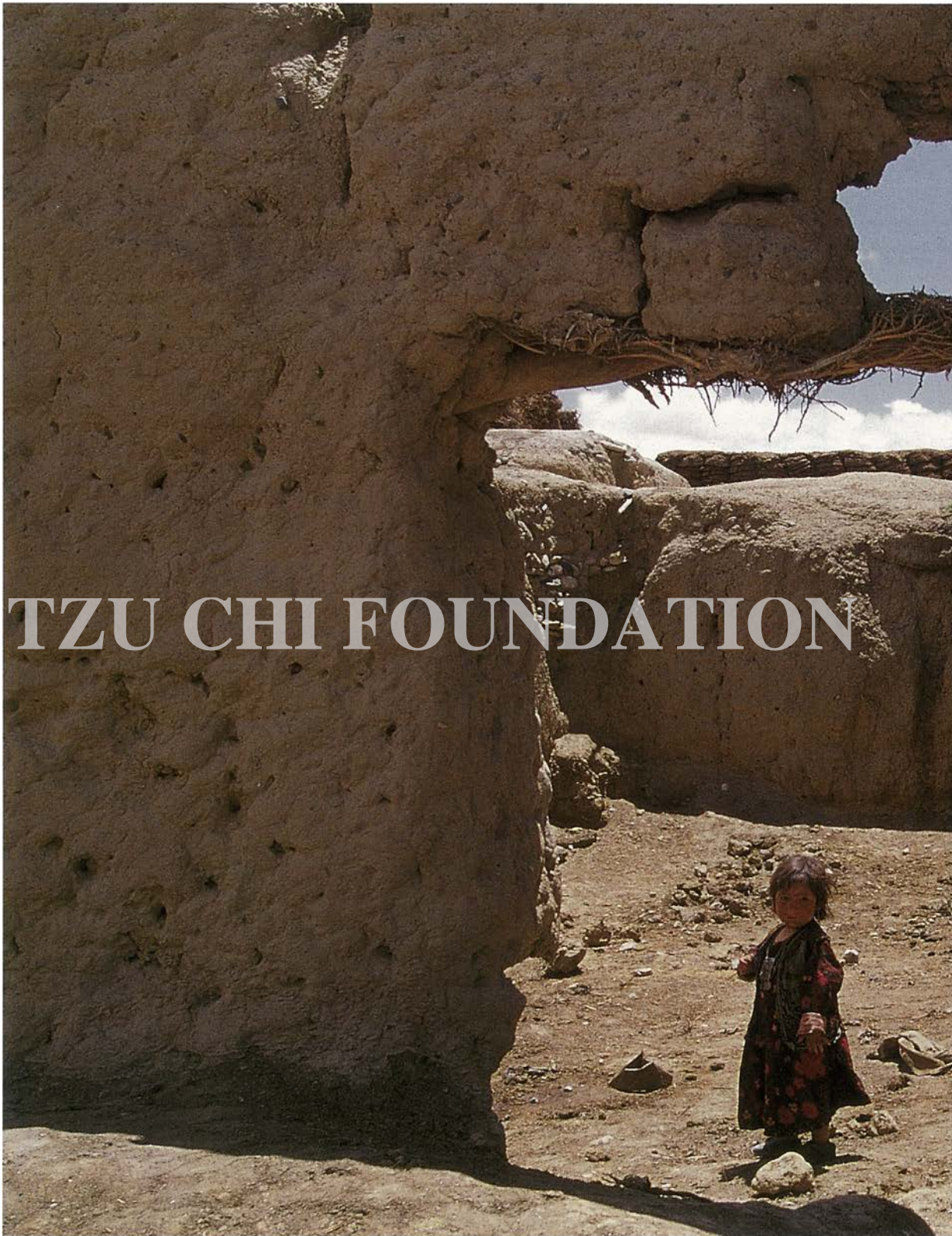


months they had gone unpaid and unaided, hanging in there to serve the locals. Said Hsieh. "Because of the existence of such people, our bringing medicines from thousands of miles away gains more significance: no longer is the act simply the conveyance of goods, but it becomes the

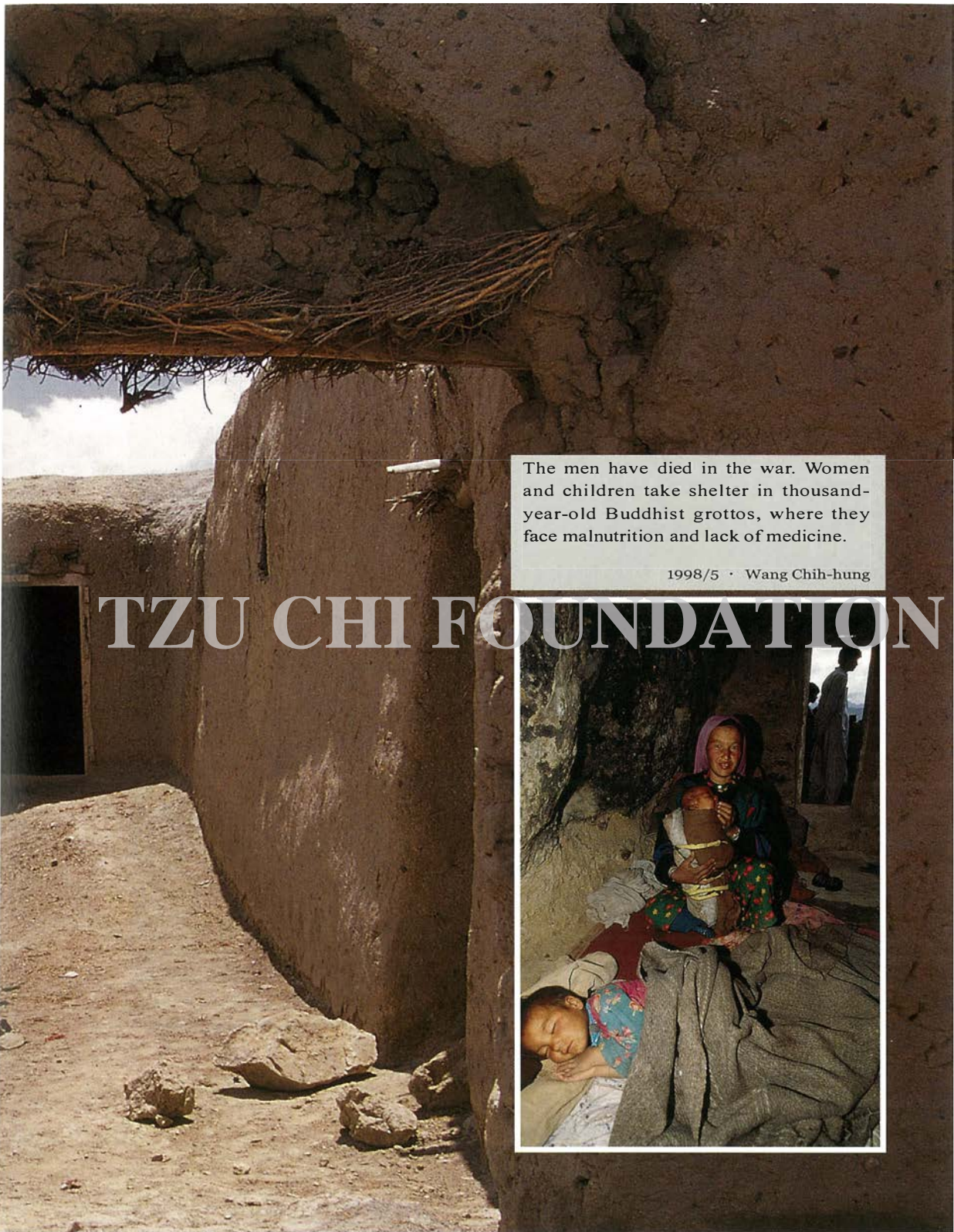
expression of care, respect, moral support and encouragement for their courage and perseverance."

Edward A. Artis of Knightsbridge

International was in charge of delivering the medicines to Bamiyan. He remembered that when the plane touched down on a snow-covered mountain 9,500 feet high, it was in extremely foggy weather and on a runway that had been cleared overnight by residents with their bare hands. It was evident how pressing the need was for outside aid. Artis remarked. "The relief operation in Afghanistan was executed by an American Christian organization, who distributed relief items provided by a Buddhist organization from Taiwan, for the purpose of helping victims in a Muslim country. It was indeed a manifestation of Great Love that transcended borders and religions."



TZU CHI FOUNDATION



The men have died in the war. Women and children take shelter in thousand-year-old Buddhist grottos, where they face malnutrition and lack of medicine.

1998/5 · Wang Chih-hung

TZU CHI FOUNDATION





Overland transportation in Bamiyan Province had been completely cut off. Airfreight was the only solution left, which is how medicine was twice delivered to the region through severe weather and the dangers of war.

1998/5 · Wang Chih-hung



Tzu Chi and Knightsbridge International deliver relief supplies from tens of thousands of miles away to the Muslim people in need.

1998/5 · Wang Chih-hung



TZU CHI FOUNDATION

This old lady, along with four hundred thousand others, lost her home to the floodwaters. Their only wish is to have a plastic sheet to shelter them from wind and rain.

1993/9 · Hsu Hsiang-ming

Nepal

Floods

Project time: September 1993-July 1995

Aid provided: Housing

In the summer of 1993, Nepal, one of the ten poorest countries in the world, experienced heavy rains that caused three major rivers to overflow in the southern and eastern parts of the country. Thousands of people died, and the number of victims affected by the flood reached four hundred thousand.

Tzu Chi decided to construct houses for survivors in the three worst-hit provinces, which had received little aid. From seven parcels of land provided by the Nepalese government, the foundation selected four lots that provided better accessibility, land safety and higher employment opportunities on which to construct 1,800 houses.

Tzu Chi held a public bidding for forty-five local grade-A companies. Two construction companies that demonstrated high efficiency and quality were contracted to construct the houses. The houses were built of brick, and metallic construction material was used to reinforce the doors, windows and roofs. All materials used were acquired locally to facilitate any future repair. Each household was allocated a cleared lot for basic farming, while a large park was shared by all.

All the houses were completed by July 1995. Survivors finally had homes to live in and land to farm. Income was generated from crops as well as livestock kept in the back of the houses. Some victims earned their livelihood through professions such as sewing and gradually improved their living conditions.

"To take good care of our beautiful new home, we have formed a community



management committee," a resident said on behalf of one community. "Residents will soon be mobilized to grow fruit trees in the community park. This will beautify the environment, and the

proceeds from selling the fruits can go to the community fund."

Tzu Chi's principle of directness in its relief operations enabled relief funds to be used entirely for the victims and also ensured high efficiency. This attitude influenced Nepalese government officials, and ministers from the central government went to the disaster area to help coordinate the relief project. The chairman of Nepal's social welfare committee said that the fact that Tzu Chi had come from so far to help flood victims there made it all the more essential for the government to improve its administrative efficiency.

Nepal was the birthplace of the founding saint of Buddhism, Sakyamuni Buddha, more than two thousand years ago. "The floodwaters were in Nepal, but the pain was felt by the Tzu Chi people in Taiwan," the vice-chairman of the social welfare committee remarked. "Tzu Chi commissioners untiringly raised funds to help Nepalese victims they had never met. This is the manifestation of the Buddha's spirit of Great Love."

Poor sanitary conditions after the waters abated led to skin diseases among the children.

1993/9 · Tzu Chi Archives



A classroom without walls, but with natural ventilation.

1993/9 · Tzu Chi Archives



Eating whatever food they find on the ground, the children contract parasites that cause their bellies to swell.

1993/9 · Tzu Chi Archives

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TZU CHI FOUNDATION

The victims settle down in their new homes. Help from all over the world has made them feel less alone on the long road to complete recovery.

2000/1 · Lin Feng-chi

On August 17, 1999, a killer earthquake measuring 7.4 on the Richter scale hit Turkey and caused much damage in human lives and property: more than fifteen thousand people died, twenty-six thousand were injured, and over six hundred thousand people were left homeless. Rescue and relief workers from over fifty countries sped to their aid.

Ten days after the temblor, Tzu Chi distributed three thousand water-proof mattress pads and six thousand blankets to refugees. The foundation also negotiated with the government for land on which "Great Love" prefabricated houses would be constructed for survivors in the city of Goluck. Temporary classrooms were built for

Tersane Elementary School to help relieve the serious shortage of space needed to accommodate students from other schools that had been destroyed in the earthquake.

The relief program was still under way when another strong quake, 7.2 on the Richter scale, struck, causing the death of more than seven hundred people and wounding more than five thousand. Tzu Chi personnel stationed in the country to oversee construction of the prefabricated houses in Goluck immediately purchased five thousand blankets for residents of Duzce City, which had taken the hardest hit, and decided to set up large insulated tents to help the victims get through the winter.

Taiwan experienced its biggest earthquake in a century while the relief work in Turkey was still in process. Tzu Chi volunteers all over the island worked around the clock to help quake survivors, but amidst that chaos the foundation still had people stationed at Goluck to supervise construction of the houses there and ensure construction quality. With blizzards and

Turkey

Earthquake

Project time: August 1999-January 2000

Aid provided: Blankets and mattress pads, construction of housing, classrooms and large insulated tents



strong aftershocks hampering progress, three hundred prefabricated houses, two hundred large insulated tents and four temporary classrooms for the Tersane Elementary school were completed on January 8, 2000, just before the end of Ramadan, the Islamic month of

fasting. Five hundred families moved into their new homes, receiving at the same time daily living necessities to give them a head start on their new lives.

"At the disaster area, there were rescue and relief workers from different countries who scarcely knew each other," Hsieh Ching-kui said. "They were all there with a shared concern for the victims. What I witnessed there was the mutual help of mankind. And in this event, Taiwan was not absent."

The relief work received help from local charity and business organizations, Taiwanese businessmen in Turkey, and students from mainland China. Among the helpers were Muslims and Jews, who worked with Buddhists to help those in need. To continue this Great Love that transcends all borders, local Taiwanese businessmen established the Tzu Chi Turkey liaison office to carry out long-term charity work. The priority is to pay regular monthly visits to the campsite to distribute living necessities to the quake survivors.



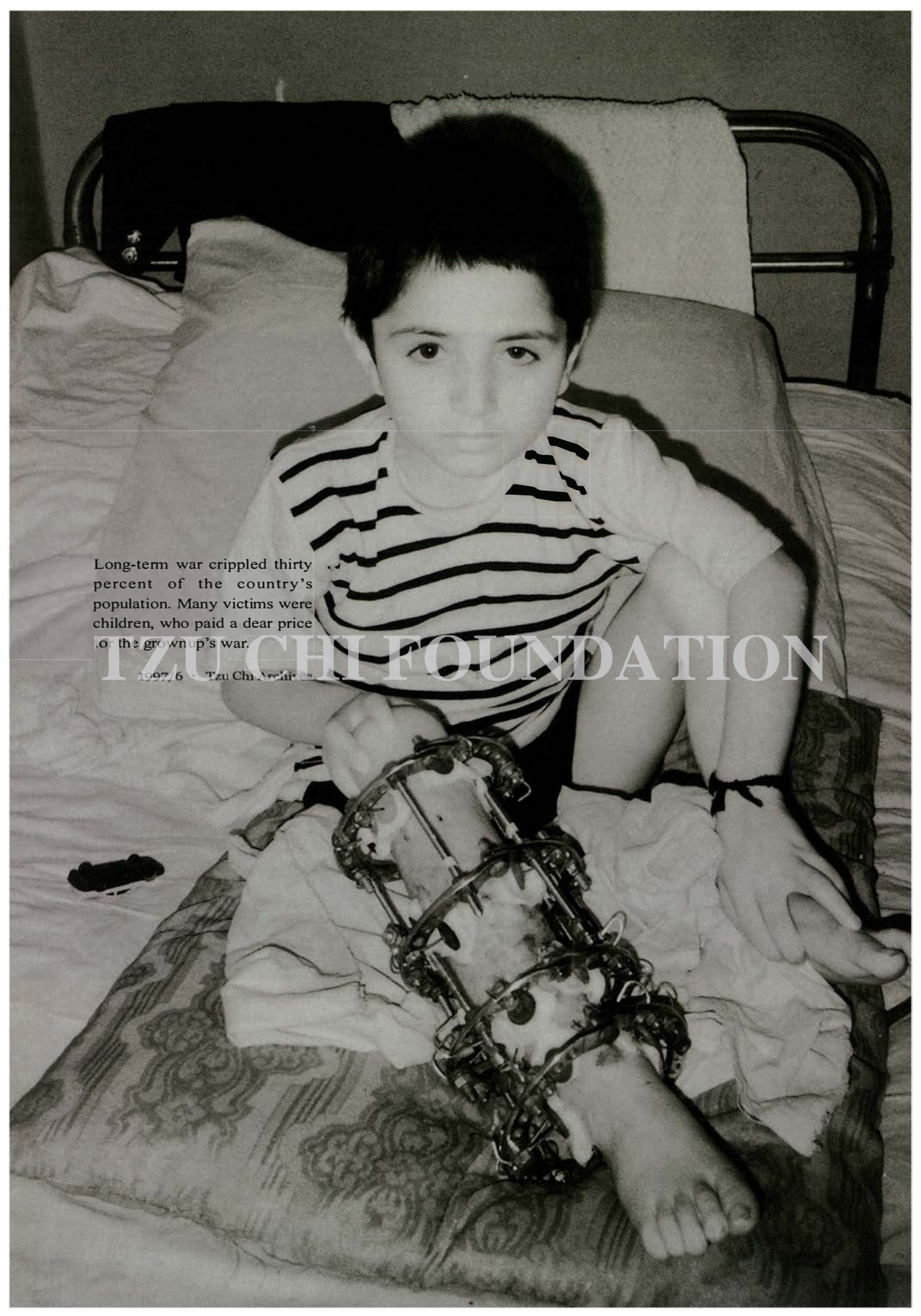
Homes have been destroyed. Overnight, makeshift tents replace houses of concrete and steel.

1999/8 · Tao Kai-lun



Through severe weather and more earthquakes, two hundred large insulated tents were completed after two months of continuous work, just before the end of Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting.

2000/1 · Lin Feng-chi



Long-term war crippled thirty percent of the country's population. Many victims were children, who paid a dear price for the grown-up's war.

IZU CHI FOUNDATION

1997/6 • Tzu Chi Archives

ASIA

Azerbaijan

Refugees

Project time: December 1996-July 1997

Aid provided: Wheelchairs, tents, warm clothes and waterproof pads

In 1988, a war that was to last six years erupted between Azerbaijan and neighboring Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. By the time a cease-fire agreement was signed in



handicapped;

(3) donation of blankets and winter clothes.

The project was completed in June 1997. The following month, massive floods in Central Europe

1994, roughly a million Azerbaijanis had been forced out of their homes and scattered in forty-nine refugee camps in the country.

In 1996, Izat Rustamov, deputy prime minister of Azerbaijan, contacted Tzu Chi to request humanitarian assistance. After twice surveying refugee camps in southern Azerbaijan, Tzu Chi decided to provide humanitarian aid to orphans of war and refugees. The foundation worked together with the University of London and the Leonard Cheshire Foundation International of the United Kingdom to implement a relief project at the refugee camps in Saatli, Sabirabad, Aghjabadi and Barda. The project included:

(1) replacement of old tents with insulated tents that could accommodate six people at a time;

(2) donation of wheelchairs for the

seriously affected Azerbaijan. Tzu Chi immediately contacted the Leonard Cheshire Foundation and Save the Children USA to distribute three hundred tents to flood victims on its behalf. Additionally, Tzu Chi cooperated with Relief International from the United States to provide waterproof mattress pads to over three hundred families in hard-hit Yenikand village.

Refugees in Azerbaijan, having suffered from long-term war and forced deportation from their homeland, were especially appreciative of donated goods and people who showed concern for their plight. An Azerbaijani translator and a local policeman, touched by the warm humanity of Tzu Chi members, donated half a month's wages to Tzu Chi to help their fellow countrymen.



Distribution notifications in hand, the old men line up to receive relief supplies including blankets and winter clothes. In fact, their greatest wish is to return home and resume their farming.

TZU CHI FOUNDATION

1997/6 · Tzu Chi Archives



A fire destroyed their homes. Tzu Chi brings tents that help alleviate their misfortune.

1997/6 · Chen Chiu-shan



TZU CHI FOUNDATION

There are three schools in the refugee camp in Sabirabad. At the distribution site, the children, on vacation, display the flag of Tzu Chi. Hopefully war and hatred will end with the older generation, as love and hope begin with the younger.

1997/6 · Tzu Chi Archives



Линия
Сестры
18 лет
- В паре друзей



Chechen

War refugees

Project time: October 1995-February 1996

Aid provided: Emergency medical aid

Chechen, situated on the northern slopes of the Caucasus Mountains, is a former constituent of the Russian Federation. The independence movement in December 1994 was sup-pressed by heavy Russian troops. More than ten thousand people died in the bloody conflict and five hundred thousand became refugees.



1995, a five-month emergency medical assistance program was implemented, including medical treatment, psychological rehabilitation, and disease prevention.

The plan was carried out

by sixty locals, including twenty-three doctors. In the Russian-occupied territory, the workers helped the refugees get to the protected campsite provided by the International Organization of Migration (IOM) and carried out medical assistance there. To deliver medicine and relief supplies to the area not controlled by Russian forces but hard to access due to steep landscape and ongoing combat, the workers traveled for more than a hundred miles from a neighboring country, carrying the supplies by themselves and on horseback. It was a mission completed through much hardship.

In January 1995, Medecins du Monde (MDM), long-time partner organization of Tzu Chi, entered Chechen. Their staff discovered that many of the refugees were wounded and in need of treatment, and many women and children required long-term medication and counseling for psychological illnesses. MDM contacted Tzu Chi for support.

Tzu Chi responded within 48 hours and agreed to work with MDM. From October

Before the tanks came, home was pretty, where I rode my pony. After the tanks came, the flowers do not bloom and the soil does not smell sweet. All I see is blood and fire and broken houses.



Pictures courtesy of MDM



TZU CHI FOUNDATION

Born into a poor family in a region where health care is lacking, the burnt child must take whatever fate brings.

1994/12 · Lin Ying-chin

Cambodia

Floods and droughts

Project time: November 1994-December 1997

Aid provided: Water pumps, seed and rice

In Cambodia, the civil war that had dragged on for more than twenty years subsided after UN-sponsored elections ended in May 1993. In the summer of 1994, just as the country was recovering from years of strife, consecutive floods and droughts affected thirteen out of the twenty-one provinces of the country, making more than two hundred thousand people homeless. It was the most severe natural disaster the country had suffered in three decades.



attacked by floods and droughts. There, they distributed rice, seed, clothes, water pumps, generators and waterproof fabric, helping close to a million people.

Cambodian officials, including the first premier, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, wrote to the Tzu Chi Foundation requesting aid. The foundation dispatched a fact-finding team in November to investigate the situation. They discovered that if farmlands were not irrigated in time, there would be danger of large-scale famine. Funds were swiftly raised to purchase twenty large water pumps and ten thousand liters of diesel fuel to help farmers save rice crops. Rice and seed were also donated to over eighty thousand victims in two hard-hit provinces to alleviate the food shortage.

Tzu Chi's actions produced a chain effect of love among local overseas Chinese and businessmen from Taiwan. Aside from acting as translators during the relief operations, they also donated water pumps and excavators to help farmers.

From 1994 to 1997, consecutive years of flooding on Cambodia's major river, the Mekong, did serious damage to the country's agriculture and gave rise to severe food shortages. During these years, Tzu Chi sped aid to the disaster-stricken country eight times. Over a hundred volunteers traveled to more than ten provinces that had been

The five thousand tons of seed that Tzu Chi donated at the end of 1996 turned into a bountiful harvest of two hundred thousand tons of rice the following year—the yield per unit had doubled. According to statistics compiled by the United Nation's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the World Food Organization (WFO), the rice yield in Cambodia had reached its highest point in twenty-six years. These numbers testify to the effect of Tzu Chi's timely aid.

In its four consecutive years of relief work in Cambodia, Tzu Chi not only provided living necessities and emergency relief to victims, but also directed its attention to local educational and medical needs: an ambulance furnished with medical equipment was donated to a hospital in the capital, Phnom Penh, and classrooms at a Chinese school were repaired.

The genuine concern shown by the members of Tzu Chi through years of assistance left a deep impression on the war-torn people. An official said: "Tzu Chi not only gave us material goods, but, what was even more valuable, presented examples from which we could learn to care for each other."



TZU CHI FOUNDATION

Naked and barefoot, they are the children of the refugee camps. Aside from being poor, they lack the opportunity to receive proper education.

1995/4 · Huang Ching-yi



Civil war continues in the northwestern province of Battambang, also a major rice producing region. In the combat zone, armed soldiers and civilians fleeing from war are often seen.

1995/5 · Tzu Chi Archives

TZU CHI FOUNDATION



Shortages of food following the floods have caused many to miss the taste of rice. At the distribution site, some can't wait until they go home to cook the rice they receive.

1996/11 · Tzu Chi Archives

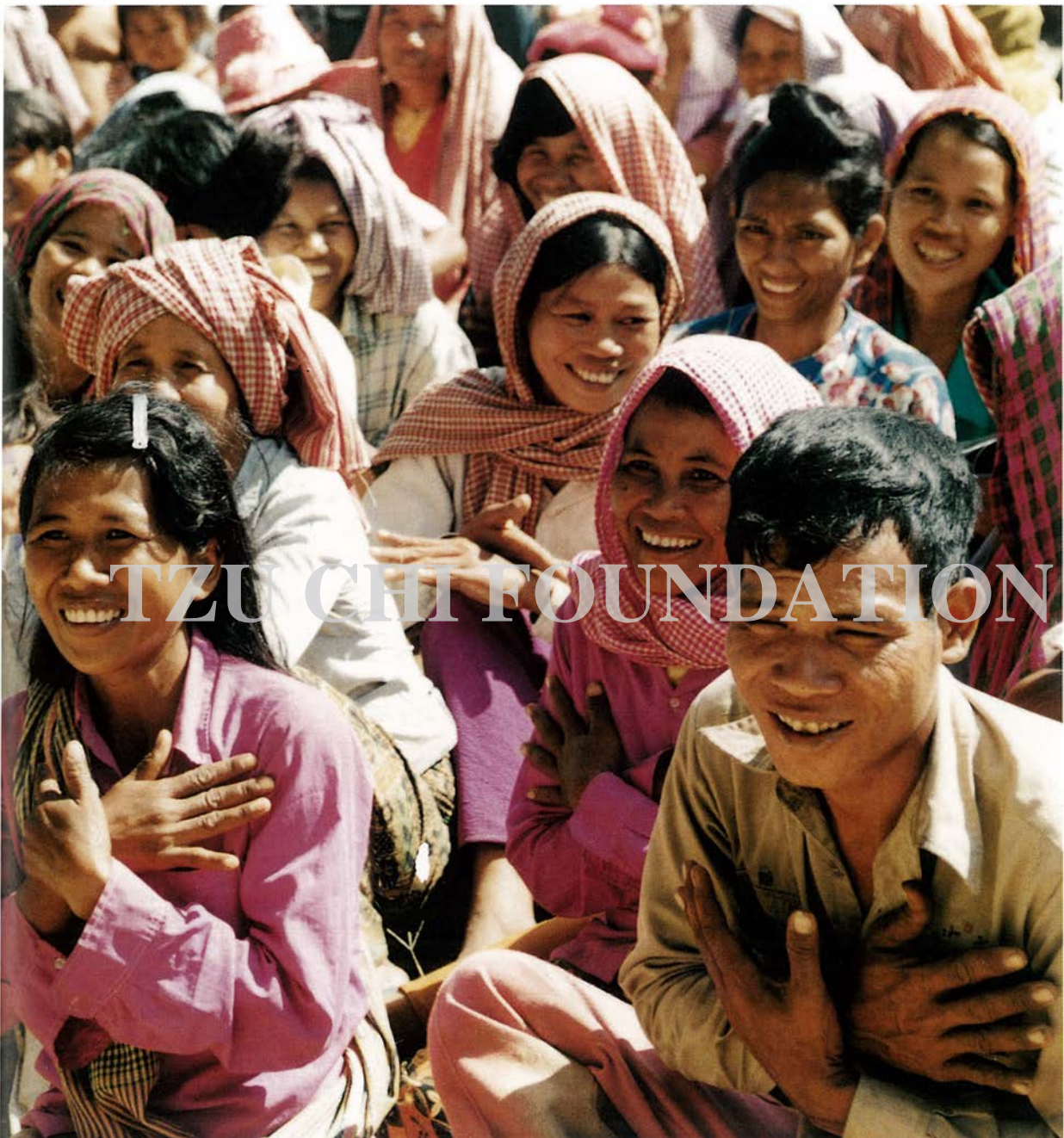
They don't speak the same language, but as Tzu Chi volunteers lead the Cambodian refugees in group activities, smiles draw them closer.

1995/1 · Tzu Chi Archives

The worst flooding in thirty years submerged farmlands and crops. A drought followed, completing the destruction of food production. Tzu Chi helps over 230,000 victims in four provinces in 1995 alone.

1995/1 · Tzu Chi Archives

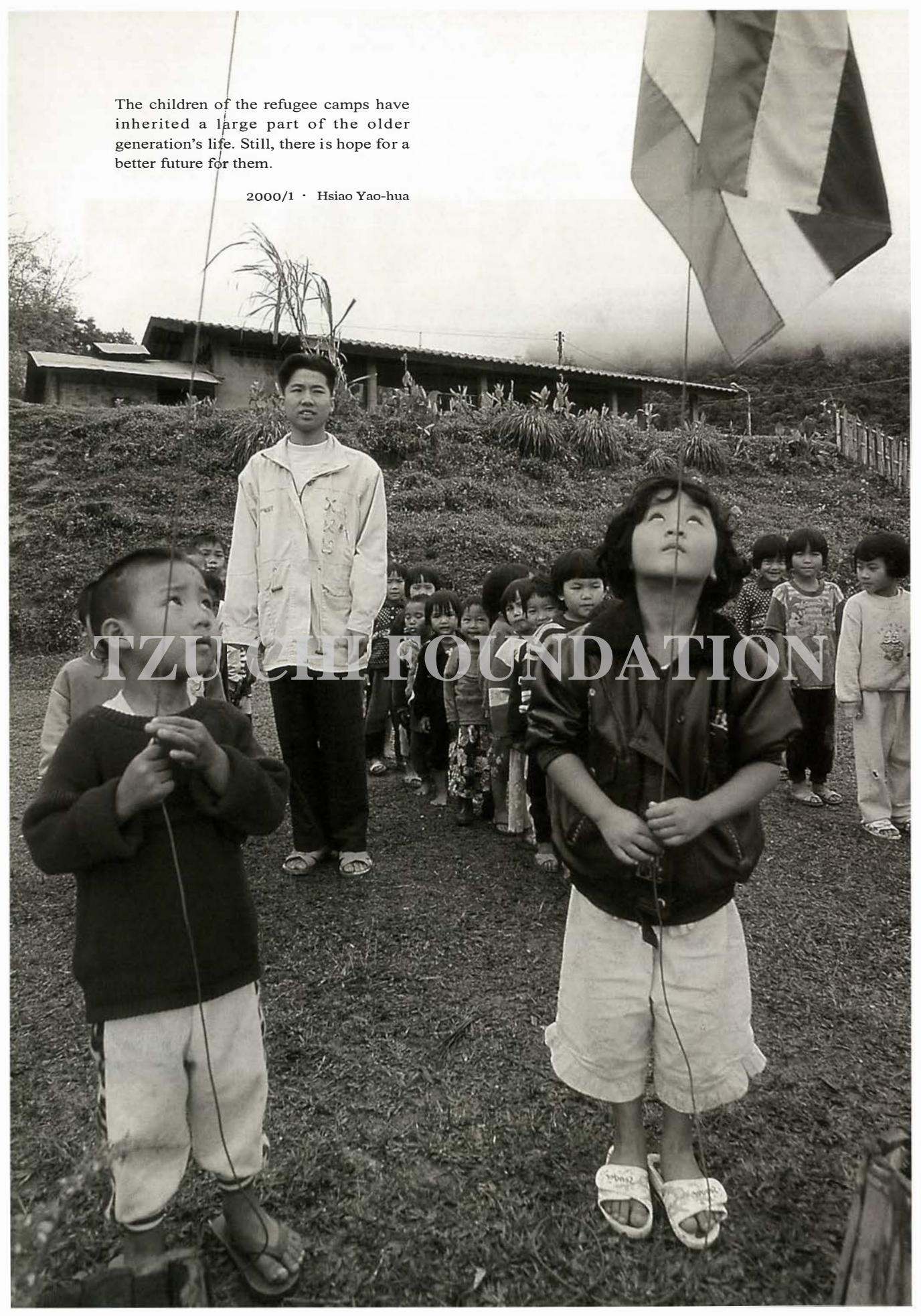




The children of the refugee camps have inherited a large part of the older generation's life. Still, there is hope for a better future for them.

2000/1 · Hsiao Yao-hua

TZU CHI FOUNDATION



Thailand

Refugees in northern mountain areas

Project time: 1995-present

Aid provided: Houses and schools, nursing homes and agricultural training programs

In 1949, Nationalist troops, mainly from Yunnan province in southwestern China, continued to battle against the Chinese Communists after the Nationalist government had retreated to Taiwan. The troops battled on the borders of Yunnan and Burma, eventually retreating to the mountainous region in northern Thailand, where they became illegal immigrants. There were over sixty-thousand of them, living in sixty-four refugee camps.

The refugees did not have legal status in Thailand and were not allowed free entry to and exit from the mountain region. It was therefore difficult for them to work in the city, and their sole source of income was the meager crops yielded from what little arable land there was. Their children are ineligible for formal education and have no vocational skills to support themselves with. The hard life thus continues from one generation to the next.

In 1954, the R.O.C. government's Committee for Overseas Chinese set aside a budget to provide long-term aid for the refugees in northern Thailand. However, the budget was entirely expended by the end of 1994, and the government contacted Tzu Chi to help continue the assistance. Beginning in 1995, Tzu Chi implemented a three-year assistance program that included care for the veterans, reconstruction of the refugee camps, seminars on agriculture, provision of tea and fruit seedlings, emergency relief, and establishment of a Chinese school.

Tzu Chi rebuilt a total of one hundred and thirty houses at refugee camps in Huiho, Bangala, Misara and Changlong. The rundown huts became concrete houses, with



electricity too. At night, light shone from windows and lit up the villages. Even more of a relief for the villagers was that finally they did not have to listen to water dripping all night long during the rainy season.

To improve the financial condition of the villagers, Tzu Chi invited agricultural specialists who toured the villages and gave seminars on the characteristics of crops that grew in Northern Thailand. Assistance for the cultivation of tea and fruit trees was provided to help increase the yield. Tea and fruit seedlings developed by a farm funded by Tzu Chi were also donated to the four villages.

Seeing how the Tzu Chi volunteers traveled so far to take care of the veterans, some Chinese businessmen in Thailand were moved to join in the cause. Later, the Tzu Chi Bangkok branch office was established to extend help to local people who lived in destitution and to carry out long-term charity work.

At the conclusion of the three-year assistance program launched and implemented by Tzu Chi workers from Taiwan, the responsibility of caring for the veterans in nursing homes and the Tzu Chi villages was taken up by volunteers from the Bangkok branch.

During the rainy season, mountain roads become virtually impassable and hamper

TZU CHI FOUNDATION



The once young, intrepid fighters are stranded. Tzu Chi volunteers care for these old soldiers who are either disabled or suffer from chronic illnesses.

2000/1 · Hsiao Yao-hua

distribution of the crops produced at the Tzu Chi villages. To solve this problem, the Bangkok office raised funds to build a new road for Huiho village. But no contractor was willing to undertake the construction, because the mountainous region lacked a water source and transportation of construction material was difficult. The volunteers therefore decided to build the concrete road themselves. The road, 1,300 meters (4,290 ft) long, was completed in 1998. From then on, village children no longer had to rise at dawn and trek to the bottom of the mountain with baskets of fruit to be sold, and then hasten back to the mountains again to attend school. They were spared that onerous task because now cars could run on the smooth concrete road.

In addition, the volunteers visited aged veterans in nursing homes in Phalang and Bann-mai Nong Bua regularly and distributed monthly living aids and necessities. During the three major holidays for the Chinese (Chinese New Year, Tomb Sweeping Day and the Moon Festival), volunteers always went up to the mountains to cook dishes traditionally eaten on such days and to lead group activities for entertainment.

In 1997, the Thai government lifted the ban on Chinese education. Tzu Chi is currently planning a secondary school in Amphur Fang in an effort to improve education for the refugees's children, so that they may have better job opportunities and thus solve their problems at the root.

Floods

Project time: August 1999

Aid provided: Living necessities

On July 31, 1999, in the northeastern region of Thailand where the Mekong River flows through, heavy rainfall combined with rising seawater caused floodwaters to inundate eight northeastern provinces.

The floodwaters surged so fast that residents had no time to salvage their belongings. The waters swiftly rose to neck-high levels, and many people climbed onto rooftops to wait for help. The armed forces mobilized large numbers of troops, helicopters, boats and trucks to rescue victims and place them in temporary shelters.

Tzu Chi volunteers in Bangkok found that most relief items were concentrated at towns and villages where transportation was more convenient. They decided to focus relief work on the more remote villages in Ginjuwenfu and Dadaofu provinces.

Tzu Chi volunteers asked the local government to provide information about survivors and assistance in reaching the disaster areas. At the same time, relief items were being purchased and packaged. On the seventh day after the disaster hit, large quantities of daily necessities and food were prepared and distributed to almost a thousand families in Ginjuwenfu and Dadaofu.

During the distribution, volunteers saw that several villages were still inundated and that inhabitants could reach the outside only with skiffs or by swimming. There was obviously an urgent need for relief supplies. Villagers told the volunteers that they thought Tzu Chi was a very special organization in that volunteers not only unloaded the relief items from the trucks, but personally handed the goods to survivors while warmly greeting them. The gesture made the villagers feel respected.



TZU CHI FOUNDATION

Though teachers and teaching materials are hard to find, the veterans insist on a Chinese education for their children. Tzu Chi provides them with teaching materials and stationery and is planning to build a secondary school for them.

1996 · Huang Ching-yi



TZU CHI FOUNDATION



1996 · Huang Ching-yi



The completion of the Tzu Chi villages has also given the local children a better learning environment.

2000/1 · Hsiao Yao-hua

Parents bring their children to be examined and treated at the free clinic.

1999/1 : Kuo Yi-teh

TZU CHI FOUNDATION



Tiga Prinsip Dari Tzu Chi

- Cinta Kasih Yang Luas
- Kepercayaan Yang Besar
- Memanfaatkan Dengan Telus Kepada Sesuamunya

1998 - 1999 NO. : 058241

KUPON SEMBAKO

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|-----------------|------------------|
| NO. R. INDIKASI | Jml. Keluarga |
| 123456789 | 2 |
| NO. TV | Bulan |
| 123456789 | 5 / 1 / Tahun 99 |

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| KG GULA PASIR | KG MENTAK GORENG |
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Diterima Oleh :
(Nama Jelas)

PERHATIAN :
1. Kupon Sembako berlaku pada hari-hari kerja dan hari-hari libur nasional.
2. Kupon Sembako berlaku untuk pembelian barang-barang kebutuhan pokok.
3. Kupon Sembako berlaku untuk pembelian barang-barang kebutuhan pokok.



1998 - 1999

KUPON SEMBAKO

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Nama K.K. | 123456789 | |
| Alamat | 123456789 | |
| Tgl. penyerahan | Hari 01 | |
| Lokasi | 123456789 | |
| Jenis dan jumlah | KG BERAS | KG GULA PASIR |

Kontroler :
123456789

PERHATIAN :
1. Kupon Sembako berlaku pada hari-hari kerja dan hari-hari libur nasional.
2. Kupon Sembako berlaku untuk pembelian barang-barang kebutuhan pokok.
3. Kupon Sembako berlaku untuk pembelian barang-barang kebutuhan pokok.

Indonesia

Poverty

Project time: October 1993-present

Aid provided: Medicine for tuberculosis and nutritional dietary supplements

In 1993, Tzu Chi volunteers in Jakarta started to carry out medical assistance and charity relief. They made regular visits to orphanages, nursing homes and leprosariums, provided education subsidies to impoverished children, and helped schools build lavatories. When natural disasters occurred, they also responded swiftly to the needs of the victims.

Tuberculosis is the second largest cause of death in Indonesia. Residents in poor rural areas lack the means and knowledge to cure this contagious disease, which requires long-term treatment. Starting from November 1995, Tzu Chi worked with the health bureaus in Tangerang and Serang provinces to eradicate TB by regularly distributing six-month supplies of medicine and nutritional dietary supplements to TB patients. The long-term program achieved remarkable results: in Serang, eighty-eight percent of the patients enrolled in the program were cured.

In addition, because there is no national health insurance policy in Indonesia and medical fees are high, Tzu Chi has since 1997 cooperated with the health bureau of Serang to conduct free monthly clinics around the region.

Financial Crisis

Project time: November 1995-present

Aid provided: Daily necessities, free clinics

Indonesia was hit by the Asian financial crisis in 1997. Many factories shut down and laborers were laid off, giving rise to a sharp increase in the unemployment rate. The number of people living under the poverty line rose from the original twenty million to one hundred million out of the country's population of two hundred million. Anti-Chinese riots that erupted in May 1998 worsened the already ailing economy. Prices skyrocketed and medical charges rose steadily. The poor faced even harder living conditions.



Ethnic unrest is like a bomb that constantly threatens the safety of overseas Chinese in Indonesia. After the anti-Chinese riots exploded, most Chinese avoided going

outdoors. However, the program to cure TB had to continue, and Tzu Chi people in Indonesia believed that love could resolve hatred. Therefore they not only continued to carry out charity operations and get the medicine to the patients within the scheduled time, they also tried to improve the lives of the poor through large-scale free clinics and distribution of daily supplies.

In 1998 and 1999, volunteers donated rice to the armed forces and police and the poor living in the slums around Jakarta. Through this gesture of genuine appreciation and concern, they hoped to contribute to the restoration of peace to society. In these two years, Tzu Chi also cooperated with local organizations such as the Paramitas Foundation and the King Kuang group to hold five large-scale free clinics in Padang (on Sumatra Island) and Yogyakarta (on Java Island). Both Chinese and Indonesian volunteers were present at each clinic. A free clinic held in March 1999 in Tangerang alone served almost twenty thousand people. From the smiles of the patients who received treatment at the free clinics, Tzu Chi people saw hope for mutual accommodation and help between different ethnic groups. Their conviction is: "As long as the work of love is carried on, peace will come one day."



Despite the economic crisis and violence, Tzu Chi volunteers continue to help the needy.

1999/1 · Kuo Yi-teh



A Tzu Chi volunteer helps an old woman who came alone to the distribution site.

1999/3 · Lin Feng-chi

Tzu Chi promptly distributed rice, canvas cloths and nylon sheets after surveying what and how much relief supplies were actually needed.

1998/11 · Hung Hai-peng

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BUDDHIST COMPASSION
RELIEF TZU CHI FOUNDATION
PHILIPPINES
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ASIA

Philippines

Poverty

Project time: February 1995-present

Aid provided: Regular free clinics in remote areas

Tzu Chi began its operations in the Philippines in November 1994. Aid provided included long-term free clinics in poor areas, visits to orphanages, nursing homes and shelters for disabled children and scholarships for underprivileged students. Emergency relief was also supplied to the poor who suffered from frequent natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons.

In the Philippines, although medical consultation is free of charge at public hospitals, the cost of medicines, operations and x-rays still have to be shouldered by the patients. For the unemployed and those with low incomes, medical care can be unaffordable. Starting from February 1995, Tzu Chi volunteers have provided free medication to patients at the East Avenue Medical Center and the Chinese General Hospital, founded by overseas Chinese, in Manila.

Obtaining medical care for offshore islanders and suburban villagers is even more difficult. For these people, money is not the only problem—the long distances that they must travel also pose a great hurdle. Some of them have been diseased for decades and never sought medical care.



Under the aegis of doctors from the Chinese General Hospital, the Tzu Chi Philippine Branch Medical Team was formed. Since April 1995, the team has

gone to the countryside every three months to hold large-scale free clinics.

The team provides medical care completely free of charge, and, what is rarer, performs surgeries. Therefore everywhere they go, villagers respond with enthusiasm. Thousands of people, often whole families, come to the free clinics, many traveling for hours on boats or buses. There are many patients with goiters, harelips and cataracts—poverty allows such diseases to stay with them for entire lifetimes.

As the number of patients increased, the free clinics grew in scale. Members of the Tzu Chi International Medical Association (TIMA) from Taiwan and Singapore pitched in at the free clinics. By March 2000, twenty-one free clinics had been held at offshore islands and remote areas, serving a total of roughly one hundred thousand people.

Dr. Lu Hsiao-chuan, deputy director of the Chinese General Hospital and leader of the Tzu Chi medical team, recalled that when Tzu Chi first started to conduct free



Tzu Chi staff divide the rice into piles and put them into bags at a distribution site.

1998/11 · Hung Hai-peng

TZU CHI FOUNDATION



Carrying bags of rice donated by Tzu Chi, the victims set off for home.

1998/11 · Hung Hai-peng

clinics, it was difficult to find doctors willing to participate. Gradually, as the overall quality of the medical services began to gain recognition, many local doctors were inspired to become involved. "Tzu Chi's free clinics always have conscientious doctors, all the necessary medicines, and volunteers who are fully cooperative," said Dr. Lu Wei-ting, a veteran participant in the free clinics. "These are the reasons why I am willing to provide my services through Tzu Chi."

Combining forces with local resources has enabled the free clinics to be even more comprehensive. The Philippine Chinese Chamber of Commerce has not only helped arrange venues for the free clinics, but has also spread news of the free clinics through radio broadcasting. In addition, they have also covered all costs for patients who needed to be hospitalized after initial treatment at the free clinics.

Natural Disasters

Project time: September 1995-September 1999
Aid provided: Relief goods

Every year the typhoon season threatens the Philippine Islands. In 1995, Typhoons Kent and Mameng caused lava from Mount Pinatubo to overflow and drive thousands of people in Pampanga Province, Luzon Island, from their homes. In November of the same year, Typhoon Angela wreaked havoc through twenty-four provinces, killing or wounding more than three thousand people and leaving 1.15 million homeless. In 1998, Typhoon Babs raged in Luzon, killing eighty-two people and injuring more than a

hundred. In 1999, heavy rain poured down in Pampanga and Pangasinan provinces...

Typhoons are not the only natural disasters to visit the archipelago. In 1998, El Nino caused Mindanao in the southern Philippines to suffer two consecutive droughts. The region faced severe food shortages. According to the local Red Cross, two hundred thousand families needed immediate aid.

When these disasters struck, Tzu Chi people went to work in remote, poor villages in the disaster areas. Over the years, Tzu Chi has provided at least forty thousand families with daily goods and food.

For the small body of Tzu Chi volunteers in the Philippines, the area of the archipelago becomes ever larger. More often than not, a disaster area might be in an unfamiliar place thousands of miles away from Manila, where the Tzu Chi branch office is located. Whether it is to investigate the disaster situation or to distribute goods, the first problem volunteers face is transportation. Also, because the government has not established a comprehensive household administration system, extra care needs to be taken in ascertaining the number of refugees and controlling the amount of goods distributed.

"We give aid and care to the victims when they are in difficulty. If one day they remember this and help others in turn, then everything we are doing will be worth it." Keeping the cycle of love in motion constantly motivates the Tzu Chi Philippine volunteers.



After a massive flood, the Tzu Chi volunteers rush to the disaster areas before the water recedes to investigate the situation and distribute the victims.

Malaysia

Smog

Project time: September 1997

Aid provided: Masks

In late September 1997, forest fires in Indonesia produced heavy smoke and ash, giving rise to smog that affected many Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines and Thailand. In Malaysia alone, at least fifty thousand people were hospitalized with respiratory illnesses.

The Malaysian prime minister declared a state of emergency in Sarawak State and urged locals to wear surgical masks to screen out polluted air. When Tzu Chi volunteers in Kuching, the state capital, discovered that masks were in short supply, they contacted volunteers in Kampung Lembaga Padi to immediately send five thousand masks by air freight. The masks were handed out at places with heavy human traffic, such as train stations and vendor centers. Altogether six thousand masks were distributed.

In addition, volunteers in Kampung Lembaga Padi provided five thousand masks to students in ten local elementary schools.

Viral disease attacking humans and animals

Project time: March 1999

Aid provided: Hospital care and cash relief

In March 1999, Malaysia experienced its worst-ever epidemic of a viral disease that affected both humans and animals. Close to a hundred pig farmers contracted and died from the disease, and 231 were hospitalized. To contain the disease, the Malaysian government quarantined the disease areas and destroyed pigs. Two states were declared highly dangerous and pig farmers had to be evacuated.

Tzu Chi volunteers established care centers for the families of those infected with the disease at the Fujung Central



Hospital and the Malaysia University Hospital in Kuala Lumpur. Volunteers comforted anxious families and provided food and water.

Outside the hospital, Tzu Chi volunteers went to rural areas to investigate the living conditions of pig farmers. They discovered that more than one hundred pig farmers had been evacuated to Taman Wawasan village. In Sepang village, there were also more than one hundred pig farmers who had been forced to move there. These farmers had lost family members to the contagious disease, their pigs had been destroyed, and they were prevented from returning to their homes. They were in poor shape both psychologically and financially.

On April 11, Tzu Chi volunteers distributed cash relief to pig farmers in Sepang and Taman Wawasan villages. Approximately 190,000 Malaysian ringgit (US\$ 4,940) were handed out to more than 2,200 pig farmers.

Tzu Chi has liaison offices in more than ten areas in Malaysia and has for a long time been helping the poor and getting involved in community services. Therefore when the disease broke out, Tzu Chi was swift in going to the hospitals to care for the pig farmers, and it was also the first non-governmental charity organization to distribute cash relief to pig farmers in the disaster areas.

The Vietnam War ended more than twenty years ago, but the scars remain. Seen at the free clinics were people blinded or disabled in the war, and children with deformities caused by soil that contained residues of chemicals used in the war.

1998/5 · Lin Feng-chi

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ASIA

Vietnam

Lack of medical resources in remote areas

Project time: January 1998-January 2000

Aid provided: Free clinics



In 1976, after much fighting and bloodshed, North Vietnam and South Vietnam were reunified under communist rule. In 1985 the government opened up its economy and foreign capital entered the market. The living standard in the cities was improved, but in rural areas and for ethnic minority groups, life remained difficult and medical resources were still scarce.

In 1994, Tzu Chi began its operations in Vietnam, focusing primarily on charity work, including long-term care for the poor, visits to old folks homes, and money for those with emergency needs. In 1998, Tzu Chi also began to provide medical services.

In Vietnam, where no public health insurance program exists, a visit to the doctor costs around US\$4, while the monthly income of an average Vietnamese is a meager US\$50. Since 1998, Tzu Chi volunteers in Vietnam have invited local physicians, Taiwanese businessmen, overseas Chinese and locals to form free clinic teams. The team have held four large-scale free clinics and served a total of twelve

thousand people. Two of the free clinics were held in cooperation with the Ho Chi

Minh City Sponsorial Association for Poor Patients and the local Red Cross. After the free clinics were held, Tzu Chi volunteers raised funds to provide surgery for people with harelips and cataracts.

The four free clinics were conducted at remote and impoverished regions or where minority groups resided. Although twenty years had passed since the war ended, the scars of war could still be found among the people. Many of the patients seen at the free clinics were victims of the Vietnam war—they were blind or had had their limbs amputated.

Tzu Chi people gave patiently and sincerely, gradually winning the trust and support of the government. Doctors who volunteered services at the free clinics also gained a deeper understanding of the importance of reaching out to help their fellow countrymen. Many remarked that they will invite other doctors to participate in future Tzu Chi free clinics. Also inspired

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At a Tzu Chi free clinic, local doctors and overseas Chinese work with Tzu Chi volunteers to help the disabled people receive treatment.

1998/5 · Lin Feng-chi

by the actions of the Tzu Chi people were local Chinese who enthusiastically joined the ranks of the volunteers.

Emergency relief

Project time: 1995-present

Aid provided: Cash relief and daily necessities

On August 12, 1998, a fire suddenly broke out in a poor area of Ho Chi Minh City, burning down 118 wood houses that lined the river and making 566 people homeless. Tzu Chi people got news of the fire the same night and immediately went to the disaster area.

Many of the residents in the area were poor laborers who had come from the northern and central parts of Vietnam. The conflagration took everything they had. Tzu

Chi volunteers worked through the night to prepare rice, clothes and cash relief, which they distributed the following morning at a temporary shelter set up for the victims at a local elementary school. An old woman who was blind and lived alone was taken into Tzu Chi's long-term care program.

Every year during the rainy season, the central part of Vietnam faces the danger of floods. In early November 1999, the region was overwhelmed by the most severe flooding in a century. The death toll exceeded five hundred and over six hundred thousand houses were damaged.

Tzu Chi volunteers from Vietnam and Malaysia went into the disaster area as soon as the floodwaters abated. They distributed rice, sugar, cooking oil and relief cash to 407 families in the three most affected areas.

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To overcome the language problem, the volunteers designed little cards to indicate what department the patients are to go to.

1998/1 · Tzu Chi Archives