

## Sistan and Baluchistan Report June 2020

by Roshanak Tavakoli

At the request of PKCF, I travelled to Nikshahr in the Sistan and Baluchistan Province to distribute food and hygiene packages to families below the poverty line. This is part of PKCF's COVID19 Project. In April & May we distributed 240 food packages to families in Hichan and 5 surrounding villages. Funds are available for a further 2 months. The village of Hichan was selected as the hub of our distribution efforts, the hometown of our aid partner Mr. Behzad Raessi. Hichan is about 143 Km. away from the port city of Chabahar. The population is 4200, consisting of 840 families. It is mainly a farming community that produce dates, rice and vegetables.



During our 1<sup>st</sup> distribution of packages in April, I stayed in Hichan and found that the village had a small primary school and electricity throughout the villages. However, in the surrounding villages the inhabitants are extremely poor (living in “Kapar” shacks, lacking the most basic facilities). There is no doctor and the villagers cannot afford to travel to the larger towns. Malnutrition is evident especially in smaller remote villages. Some of the children walk bare foot, their clothing old and dirty, most people do not have access to toilets, bathrooms nor drinking water in their homes. Whilst I usually do not agree with the concept of food handouts, witnessing this level of poverty and their painful situations made me reconsider. I am grateful to **PKCF and their kind supporters** for providing me with the opportunity to be involved in this project, which has had a major impact on the lives of the villagers, for which they are profoundly grateful.





I strongly suggest and request **PKCF** to continue helping the people of the village of Hichan and the 5 surrounding villages with projects I am suggesting below, to enable them to help themselves in the future.

### **Soozan Doozi workshop**

I suggest setting up a workshop in the village of Hichan, where women from the surrounding villages can also join. This will empower women and girls to expand on their existing skills, allowing them to earn money and make a real difference in their lives. I have already discussed this project with fashion & interior designers in Tehran, who welcomed the project and offered their support by giving designs and promised to purchase the final products.

### **Financial assistance for medical needs**

My gratitude to **PKCF and its supporters** for funding the medical cost of the two children in the pictures below. They are now in Kerman having treatment for EB and have been registered with the Iranian EB Society. Please consider helping with medical costs for other families as they cannot afford to pay for doctor's fees, medicine or even transportation costs to attend clinics.



### **Financial assistance for working villagers**

Many villagers are in work yet need vital assistance to support their families. I met Eysa Khohi, a farmer in village of Hichan who supports his family as well as his sister's family. He works hard on 15 small plots of land, each about 500 sq. meters, planting vegetable, rice, and dates, which he sells locally. He also takes care of his 3 goats and a few chickens making sure his family has milk and meat to eat. As his land is not accessible by road, Eysa is unable to use a tractor to plough the land. 2 years ago he took a loan to buy a bull for 14 million Tomans. Having repaid half the cost, he struggled to repay the rest until a **PKCF benefactor** stepped in. In gratitude to the benefactor, Eysa has promised to give some of his crops on an ongoing basis to a family in need.



## Education and Schools

Hichan has 4 coeducational schools for the villagers and children from surrounding villages, who come daily to Hichan to continue their education at middle and senior school level. All these schools are in a derelict condition and need refurbishment. Hichan also needs a middle school for 170 boys. They share a makeshift senior school (an abandoned building).



Because PKCF's mission is the welfare and education of children and young people, I am hoping that you and your supporters consider assisting with the above.

**Roshanak Tavakoli**

Founder of Bachehaye Ma, Kerman