

Preserving an Endangered Culture

The Rehabilitation Starts

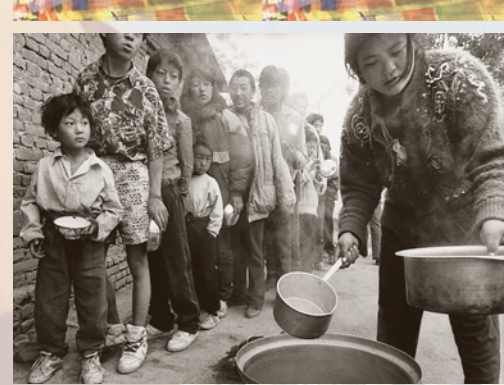


On their way to exile...



Constructing high-altitude roads

In 1959, tens of thousands of Tibetan men and women crossed the high Himalayan passes to take refuge in India. After a few months in temporary camps in Assam, they found their ways to northern India. The first priority for the Dalai Lama was to preserve a civilization in danger of extinction on the Roof of the World. With the help of the Indian Government and a number of generous sponsors, a new life started.



Feeding the young and the old



In spite of the tragedy they still find the courage to smile...



The Dalai Lama inspecting a new construction in Dharamsala

The refugees first settled in the hill stations of Dharamsala, Manali, Mussorie, Dalhousie and other places in the Himalayas.

An exile administration, several schools, a medical institute, a library and monasteries were soon started. Larger settlements were later established in south India.



The first refugees in McLeod Ganj near Dharamsala



Monsoon time...



The beginnings of the Tibetan Medical Centre