



UNHCR PAKISTAN IDP Operation

January 2010

Background

In August 2008, the Government of Pakistan (GOP) conducted military operations in the Bajaur Agency of the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) causing the displacement of thousands of families. Over the next nine months some 556,539 internally displaced persons (IDPs) poured into the safer districts of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and beyond. At the end of April 2009, eleven camps in NWFP were housing 93,627 individuals (14,635 families) while the large majority of IDPs, 462, 912 individuals or 77,529 families, lived in host communities with extended family or in rented accommodations.

In May 2009, renewed clashes caused another sudden and massive influx of IDPs, this time from Swat and Buner areas of NWFP. Families fled their areas 'en masse' in cars, buses, carts even on foot. Some two million people are estimated to have left their homes, businesses and land since the GOP launched its operations in late April 2009. These new arrivals joined those already displaced from the earlier waves since August 2008.

Under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)'s global cluster approach, UNHCR leads the coordination of three of the eleven clusters in the humanitarian response: 1) camp coordination and management (CCCM), 2) Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs) and 3) Protection (e.g. registration, attention to the needs of women, children and the vulnerable groups as well as establishment of monitoring and referral mechanisms). Other clusters include Water & Sanitation, Education and Nutrition (led by UNICEF), Food and Logistics (WFP), Health (WHO), Agriculture (FAO) and Early Recovery (UNDP).

Registration

The registration of IDPs in the camps was conducted by the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR) and implementing partner, International Rescue Committee (IRC) with support

from UNHCR. Outside camps, registration was carried out by the NWFP Ministry of Social Welfare, with support from UNHCR. The verification of the registration of IDPs was undertaken by National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). To date some 424,731 families / 3.1 mil individuals registered families were verified (*Source: GoP - Special Support Group IDPs*). These people were displaced from Bajaur and Khyber Agencies, Dir, Swat and Buner, South Waziristan and Orakzai Agency.

New displacements from Orakzai Agency have been observed over the past month. A total of 11,868 families or 71,208 individuals from Orakzai Agency have been displaced to the contiguous districts of Hangu and Kohat. UNHCR has setup Mohammad Khwaja camp at Hangu through its IP Community for Excellence in Rural Development (CERD) which accommodates 94 Families or 653 individuals. The majority of the Orakzai IDPs are accommodated in the host communities in Kohat. WFP has started food distribution to these IDPs from 15 Jan 2010 and the NFI distribution by UNHCR's IP Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) has also started since 4 January 2010. As of 15 January 2010, 2971 families or 17,826 individuals in Kohat and 54 families or 324 individuals in Mohammad Khwaja Camp have received NFI kits. Assistance to out of camp IDPs in Hangu is being provided by ICRC through Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

As of 15 January 2010 over 21,538 IDP families (114,375 Individuals) from FATA, Bajaur and Khyber Agencies, Dir, Swat and Buner areas of NWFP are accommodated in over 10 camps in NWFP. The vast majority of IDPs live outside camps. A total of 136,040 families (993,092 individuals) are living in the host communities of Charsadda, Mardan and Swabi. (*Source: Special Services Group (IDP) and Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees/CAR, 15 Jan '10*)

Camps

In the camps, in support of the Camp Management Cluster (CCCM), the Emergency Shelter Cluster (ESC) constructed fencing, lighting, communal and individual kitchens and pardah walls (privacy) in observation of cultural norms of the tribal peoples, and provided shading structures ('summerization') for tents and communal areas to provide relief against the intense summer heat. As the winter season has started, winterization of the camps is in process. Up till now the previously used tents have been replaced by all season tents that will provide relief from intense weather in the coming months.

ESC, also responsible for the distribution of non-food-items (NFIs), in coordination with provincial authorities and partners distributed NFI packages (including blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, buckets, soap, plastic sheets, etc.) to over 420,000 registered and verified IDP families living in camps and outside camps in 2009. In camps, distribution took place at the distribution points; While IDPs living outside camps approach the joint (WFP/UNHCR) humanitarian hubs to receive food and NFI items.

Over 90% of the total IDP population in NWFP currently lives outside camps where life conditions have been more strained and there is increasing pressure on host families whose resources have, by now, significantly dwindled.

Non-food item (NFI) distribution and Temporary Shelter

UNHCR through its implementing partner, Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP), has distributed a total of 423,138 NFIs packages to IDP families since the onset of the influx in May 2009. As of 09 January '10, 52,587 NFI packages have been distributed in the camps located in the districts of Charsadda, Nowshera, Swabi, Dir, Mardan Peshawar and Hungu while 370,551 NFI Packages were distributed to the IDPs outside camps in the districts of Charsadda, Nowshera, Swat, Buner, Swabi, Dir, D I Khan, Kohat, Mardan and Peshawar. Distribution of NFI packages have also started in the return areas.

Temporary Shelter

Based on the outcome of the CERINA, UNHCR aims to provide 25,000 temporary shelter units to internally displaced families who have returned to their areas of origin or were displaced within their own district, pending the construction of permanent housing. Through its implementing partners (IPs), operational partners (OPs) and government partners / organizations, UNHCR will provide training, technical expertise, materials and tools to beneficiaries. UNHCR is currently working with 7 IPs for implementation of the shelter programme.

UNHCR's seven IPs: Support for Community Motivation and Development Organization (CMDO), ACTED, Relief International (RI), Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP), Pakistan Community Development Programme (Pak-GDP), Initiative to base Development on Rights and Knowledge (IDRAK) and UNHABITAT.

Each temporary shelter unit is designed to accommodate a family of 7 and has adequate space for a living area, kitchen and a latrine. The shelter kit is composed of plastic sheeting, bamboo poles, timber, and corrugated iron sheet for roofing, nails, toolkit, etc. for the construction of one temporary shelter unit. Families with more than seven members are entitled to two temporary shelters units.

Temporary shelters are initially being constructed in 8 Tehsils of Swat as identified by the GOP. At a later stage, shelters will also be built in Swabi, Buner, Lower Dir and Bajaur. As of 18 January 2010, some 130 temporary shelters have been constructed in Swat since the construction phase of the Temporary Shelter Programme started on 5 December '09.

Winterization

UNHCR has begun to distribute additional relief supplies to some 85,000 internally displaced people (IDP) living in camps. This aid will help the IDPs, gathering some 13,600 families, to cope with the hardships of winter.

The first phase of the winterization drive is complete in the camps including Jalala, Benazir complex, Munda, Wali Kandow, Samar Bagh, GDC Lower Dir and Palosa in the NWFP, except Jalozi camp where the distribution is still in progress. Similarly in the newly setup Hungu camp the distribution has not been started yet. As of 6 January 2010, a total of 11,871 winterization kits where as 1,880 quilts have been distributed in camps. The winterization kit for one family consists of six blankets, four sleeping mats and two plastic sheets for warmth and insulation, in addition to other relief supplies received when they initially registered in the camp.

As part of the winterization programme, standard canvas tents have been replaced with all-weather tents or being reinforced with extra insulation. More than 3,000 tents have been replaced to date in the Jalozi camp. Newer camps, like Wali Kandaw in the Lower Dir district, were established with all-weather tents.

A second round of winter assistance will follow including, woollen shawls and fire wood. The

distribution of these items is planned to be started by the end of January 2010.

Return

On 13 July the Government of Pakistan announced its phased return plan '*Naway Sahar*' ('Dawn of A New Beginning') and began with assistance of the transportation of IDPs living in camps in NWFP. A total of 25 camps have been closed down as majority of the IDPs are returning to their areas of origin. Based Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees/CAR, figures, as of 15 Jan '10 a total of 31,891 families (184,662 individuals) have returned from the camps to their areas of origin which brings the total returns from camps as well as the host communities to 267,221 families or 1.95 million individuals. (Source: *Special Support Group*)

On 25 August, the GOP announced the re-assignment of the IDP operation in NWFP from the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) / Provincial Reconstruction Rehabilitation and Settlement Authority (PaRRSA).

UNHCR is supporting the GOP return plan through the distribution of NFIs in the areas of return and by contributing to transportation for returns especially for the Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs). Between July and September '09, a total of 28,000 families or 182,000 individuals were assisted in return to their areas of origin. UNHCR is committed to providing 25,000 units of temporary shelter through the distribution and construction of temporary shelter kits in 2009 - 2010.

UNHCR has also set up protection monitoring mechanisms which provide information, assistance, awareness and advice on protection matters. Simultaneously UNHCR has setup 5 welfare centres in Swat which are providing psycho social services to the returnees in five Union Councils: Barikot, Ghalegay, Kanju, Khwaza Khela, and Kotanai in Swat through the implementing partner Regional Institute of Policy Research & Training (RIPORT). Currently, the activities provided in the centers include: i) information dissemination and outreach to communities ii) psycho-social counseling iii) building up referral mechanism and coordination with other stakeholders. To date, a total of 503 cases were identified at the welfare centres. Majority of the cases were related to psycho-social stress or problems related to registration as well as access to food distribution.

Challenges

The overall security situation in NWFP as well as in areas of return limits the movement of the humanitarian community and consequently its direct reach to beneficiaries.

Funding

The revised Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan (PHRP) launched in May 2009 appealed for a total of US\$445 million with UNHCR's initial appeal for US\$105 million of this for its activities. However, UNHCR has since revised its needs to US\$141 million due to a higher number of beneficiaries than previously anticipated (2.5 million rather than 1.5 million), and expected further operations in Waziristan.

2009, 942,259 USD was received from private donors (including Allis Chalmers MA, British Petroleum and anonymous individuals).

As of 7 December '09, UNHCR has received US\$132 million or 94% of its funding requirements.

UNHCR is grateful to all those governments and private donors who have stepped forward to make generous contributions. UNHCR also apologizes if all contributions are not as yet reflected.

In 2010 UNHCR's funding requirement for Protection, NFI/Emergency Shelter and Camp Management is USD 131 million.

Waziristan

Military operations in South Waziristan, in the Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan began on 17 October 2009 causing the displacement of thousands of families mainly to the adjacent districts of southern NWFP such as Dera Ismail Khan (DIK), Tank and Bannu. The displaced population from S Waziristan has taken refuge largely with host families but also in rented accommodations. Many families who following tradition spend the winter in the warmer climes of southern NWFP, also opted not to return to FATA.

Registration

To assist IDPs from South Waziristan, UNHCR helped to set up 4 Registration Centers in DIK (3) and Tank (1) where registration takes place through the NWFP Department of Social Welfare. Only two of these registration points are still operational, one each in D I Khan and Tank. Once registered, IDP data is sent to NADRA for verification. To date 59,019 families have registered out of which 38,524 have been verified.

To assist the IDPs with problems in registration redressal desks were setup at both of the registration centers in DI Khan and Tank. So far 337 cases have been assisted at the redressal desks.

Assistance: NFIs and Tents

UNHCR has also helped to establish four Distribution Centers, three in DIK and one in Tank, where NFIs are distributed through a local partner, to IDP families. To date UNHCR has distributed 55,890 NFI kits (including blankets, jerry cans, plastic buckets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, plastic sheets, mosquito nets and quilts) to IDP families in DIK and Tank. UNHCR has also provided tents to alleviate overcrowding in host communities. The distribution of tents began on 9 November; to date 36,353 tents have been distributed to IDP families in DIK and Tank.

Challenges

The UN and international humanitarian organizations have no access to South Waziristan and limited access to DIK and Tank. This remains a challenge for the delivery of assistance including implementation of protection and monitoring on the ground. UNHCR assistance is delivered through local partners whose staffs are in need of regular training and monitoring to ensure delivery of optimal services.

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