

# Update on IDPs

## Situation of IDPs

### **280,000 IDPs Facing Severe Food Crisis in DI Khan, Tank**

According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at least 280,000 IDPs from South Waziristan are threatened with food insecurity following suspension of food distribution in DI Khan and Tank districts. Data presented in the Pakistan Humanitarian Update shows that the number of registered and verified IDPs in DI Khan and Tank stands at approximately 280,000 people despite a slow influx of IDPs from South Waziristan. Since the Government is issuing cash cards for each IDP family for Rs 5,000, the food distribution has been stopped in the two host districts. Of 38,524 families, cash cards have been issued to 31,800 families out of which 27,500 have been activated, whereas 12,000 families are still waiting to avail the chance. The criterion for issuing cash cards is based on pre-family unit instead of considering the total numbers of family members. An analysis of the data reveals that the cash support of Rs 5000 is peanuts as, on an average, each IDP receives less than Rs 2 a day to meet his food requirements subject to his ability to get the cash.

OCHA update suggests that the registration process at the only established camp in Hungo, which was suspended on January 18, should be reunited. Due to continued influx of IDPs from Orakzai Agency, hundreds of thousands unfortunate people require immediate attention for humanitarian assistance by the government and other agencies. Similarly, IDPs living in Mohammad Khawaja and Jaloza camps in Hangu and Nowshera respectively, and those living in rented rooms are also in a dire need of food and other basic facilities. The international donor community has developed a Pakistan Humanitarian response Plan (PHRP) for 2010 with a funding of \$485 million. The PHRP will formally be launched on February 9.

[Daily Times -- February 7, 2010]

### **UN Appeal of \$537m for Areas Hit by Militancy**

On February 9, the United Nations launched an appeal for \$537 million to meet immediate humanitarian needs of the vulnerable and affected people of militancy-hit areas of Pakistan. The Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan (PHRP) 2010 aims at providing a consolidated, coherent, transparent and coordinated response of the humanitarian community to the unmet needs of the people of the NWFP and FATA. UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Pakistan Martin Mogwanja said: "We are expecting contributions from the international donor community, which will enable humanitarian organisations in Pakistan to continue their essential assistance in the NWFP and FATA for at least another six months." The PHRP 2010 is based on specific and defined planning assumptions and beneficiary projections and includes project proposals that are in line with international humanitarian principles. The plan draws largely from the humanitarian response experiences of 2008 and 2009.

The plan is in response to humanitarian and early recovery needs resulting from the displacement crisis. There are other humanitarian needs in Pakistan that the international community is called to assist, in particular for the benefit of Afghan refugees. These needs are not covered by the PHRP which focuses on the affected population in the NWFP and FATA. The organisations participating in **the PHRP 2010 include 13 UN agencies and 33 international and 22 national NGOs, with 169 projects to cover the unmet humanitarian needs.**

The humanitarian community is focusing on four categories of people in need of assistance. They are:

- IDPs accommodated in camps or out of camps
- Those who were displaced and have returned to their area of origin
- Vulnerable populations among those who remained in areas of origin during operations
- Host families providing assistance to IDPs

Needs for 2010 have been analysed in consultation with the humanitarian community, analysts and government institutions. It is expected that returnees and those who never left their areas will continue to depend on humanitarian assistance for a significant period this year as a result of a loss of livelihoods, including the loss of

livestock, inability of local farmers to harvest their 2009 winter crops because of their displacement and inability to plant maize crop of the past summer.

The document said that humanitarian, recovery and development activities in an insecure environment would characterise the working context for humanitarian workers in 2010, which might face a restraint due to limitations to access, particularly in parts of Malakand division and most of FATA. Displacement and return patterns will fluctuate in those areas. Revenge actions by militant in cities have the potential to disrupt the working environment for the humanitarian community. Sectarian violence in some districts and agencies will be a factor contributing to instability. A multi-faceted and robust monitoring and reporting mechanism will be instituted to measure the effectiveness and impact of project implementation against general objectives of the PHRP and identify gaps for improvement.

[Dawn -- February 10, 2010]

### **PM's Relief Package -- Swat Farmers Dissatisfied with Loan Write-Off Policy**

Farmers and landowners in Swat have expressed dissatisfaction at the loans write-off and remission facilities under the Prime Minister's relief package and sought its readjustment. One of the landowners, Muhammad Saeed said that Zarai Taraqati Bank Ltd (ZBTL) had written off the loans of some farmers in Malakand division under its own formula, while other commercial banks had waived off non-agriculture loans in the division under a uniform rule. To provide relief to the conflict-affected areas of the NWFP and tribal areas Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani at the Kissan Convention 2009 announced a relief package for remission and write-off of small farmers' loans, both farm and non-farm. Under this package all agricultural loans of small farmers having outstanding balance as of June 30, 2009 in Swat, Buner, Shangla, Dir Lower, Dir Upper, Malakand and Chitral districts in Malakand division were written off. Saeed said it was on record that not a single farmer had suffered in Chitral and not more than one to five percent have suffered in the rest of Malakand division, but their loans have been waived off, while those affected badly by militancy and subsequent operation by the security forces in Swat were not allowed to avail the facility.

He said that the first category consisted farmers who had mortgaged more than 13 acres of their landholdings while the second category was of those who had mortgaged less than 13 acres of their landholdings. Farmers in the first category were declared big farmers, and those in the second category were adjudged small farmers irrespective of their landholdings in the revenue record. Saeed added that farmers should be declared big or small on the basis of their total landholdings in the revenue record, not because of the portion of the land they mortgaged to the ZBTL. He claimed that under this formula the farmers who suffered a lot due to militancy were deprived of their right to loan write-off. Meanwhile, the Community Rights Movement, a civil society organisation, urged the government to include the loanees of the Khushali Bank in the relief package and direct the bank to write off their small loans. About 10 office-bearers of the organization said that the majority of the loanees of the Khushali Bank were poor from the militancy-hit Malakand division and had received Rs10,000 loans. They said the Government should include them in the beneficiaries of the Prime Minister's relief package.

[The News -- February 20, 2010]