

DISASTER & IDP CRISIS

Situation of IDPs

‘Pakistan Has the Sixth Largest Population of Displaced Persons’

Millions of people are being displaced by conflict in Pakistan, which has shown the most dramatic increase in internal displacement in the past decade. With an estimate of 980,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), Pakistan ranks sixth on a list of countries with the largest IDP population in 2010. Almost three million people were newly displaced globally by the end of 2010. Pakistan’s 400,000 IDPs account for half of the total displacements in the region last year. This figure does not include Fata and Balochistan since these areas were inaccessible to humanitarian workers and the media. Three hundred thousand people fled Fata in 2010 and more than 100,000 left Balochistan “due to military operations against separatist groups and the separatists’ intimidation of government-sponsored settlers”.

40,000 members of the Bugti tribe were also displaced, but lack of access made it difficult to know about the displacement of Baloch groups. The government and army led the response to the displacement, but had different goals. While provincial governments ensured that projects by foreign agencies were aligned with national priorities, the army aligned the response with counter-insurgency objectives. The government did not allow international assistance to people displaced by conflict in Balochistan, large parts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa or all of Fata. Despite this, Pakistan is noted as one of the countries which took “significant measures” to deal with IDPs.

[The Express Tribune - April 24, 2011]

Bajaur, Mohmand IDPs Start Returning Home

The FATA Disaster Management Authority said that the programme of voluntary return would continue till May. However, none of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) would be forced to leave the camps, set up for them in Jalojai and Risalpur. Presently around 15,000 IDP families have been residing in these camps. The plan of voluntary repatriation is also applicable to around 65,000 displaced families living off-camps. Most of the IDPs have been dwelling in the two camps for the last over two years. Some of them have left their respective agencies in late 2008 and early 2009. The director general of Fata Disaster Management Authority told journalists that they had finalized arrangements so that all Bajaur and Mohmand IDPs, who left their homes as a result of operation against militants in their respective areas, could go back with honor and respect.

The returning IDPs would have to fill a form prior to their departure. The forms had already been distributed in the camps, he added. He said that other IDPs, who intended to go back, could collect the said forms from the Benazir Bhutto camp in Risalpur and Jalojai camp. All returning IDPs would be provided free transport while with the support of World Food Organization (WFO) food would also be provided to them for two-years. According to Fata Disaster Management Authority, the number of displaced families from Bajaur Agency are 50,000 whereas the displaced families from Mohmand Agency are over 30, 800. The IDPs living off-camps include 37,000 families from Bajaur and around 29,000 families from Mohmand.

[Dawn – April 4, 2011]

Displaced From Tribal Areas: 24 Families Return

24 families have left for areas declared safe by the authorities under the repatriation programme which was launched. 46 more families have filled out return forms during the last some days. The transportation arrangements were made by the Fata Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) for all those who left. However, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has taken over the rest of the repatriation process. The returning families are being provided with a tent by UNHCR and transportation charges are being covered by FDMA. However, the returning families are not being provided any kind of monetary assistance. These families will be compensated after their return, as per the government policy, depending on the extent of damages caused to their properties.

The number of families quoted as being willing to return is a negligible fraction of the total number of displaced people. At least 19,272 families from Bajaur, Mohmand and Khyber Agency are living in the Jalojai IDP camp in Nowshera district, while thousands of others are residing with host families or in rented homes. Jalojai camp hosts around 4,678 families from Khyber Agency, 1,580 from Mohmand Agency and 13,014 families from Bajaur. The voluntary repatriation program will continue till May. A jirga of displaced tribal elders belonging to Bajaur was held at the Jalojai camp to chalk out a strategy regarding the repatriation process. The participating elders were of the view that there was no peace in their areas, the education facilities were in shambles, and they had no food or cattle to sustain themselves in that area. The elders said that if the authorities agree to provide these things, they were ready to return, otherwise they would not. Their next course of action will be decided in light of how their demands are considered by the authorities.

[The Express Tribune - April 16, 2011]

Relief & Rehabilitation Responses

MKRF, Imran Khan, Akhuwat's Micro-Finance Plan for Flood Victims

A micro-finance project under self-employment scheme jointly sponsored by Mir Khalilur Rahman Foundation, Imran Khan Foundation and Akhuwat for over 1,200 flood victims of Nowshera Kalan has been inaugurated. An amount of Rs. 11.7 million would be provided to the flood-hit people to enable over 1,200 families to stand on their own feet. The devastating flood of 29 July, 2010 not only caused havoc in Nowshera but also in the entire country. It was a big test of the nature and we have to take a lesson from the same. A scheme for the affectees has been launched to enable them stand on their own feet. Rs. 60 million has been earmarked for extending interest free loans to the victims under the micro-finance programme for the self-employment scheme. Over 3,000 families of Nowshera, Peshawar and Mansehra would benefit from the scheme.

[The News - April 17, 2011]

ADB Provides \$650 Million to Help Rebuild Flood-Damaged Infrastructure

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the government signed an agreement to invest a loan of \$650 million from the ADB in reconstruction of vital infrastructure damaged by last year's devastating floods. The financial assistance provided under the ADB Flood Emergency Reconstruction Project (FERP) will go towards rebuilding damaged national and provincial road networks, irrigation systems, and flood protection structures, kick starting economic and livelihood activities. \$600 million of FERP resources come from Ordinary Capital Resources (OCR) with a 32-year term, an eight-year grace period and interest set in accordance with ADB's LIBOR-based lending facility. Another \$50 million will be tapped from ADB's concessional Asian Development

Fund, which will have a repayment term of 40 years, with a 10-year grace period, and interest charges at 1 percent per annum. ADB will also provide a \$4 million grant for capacity building technical assistance to strengthen implementation and oversight of the project.

The FERP will reconstruct 793 kilometers of national highways and bridges and 800 km of provincial road networks to multiple hazard resistant standards. The project will improve 1.5 million hector of agriculture land by restoring and strengthening flood protection embankment, rehabilitating canals and other allied infrastructure. These investments will re-establish inter-regional connectivity, access to markets, and will boost the reconstruction and livelihood restoration processes in the affected areas. In addition, ADB as a part of its overall post-flood support increased the trade finance facility to Pakistan by \$500 million, providing extra cover to emergency imports and exports during the reconstruction period.

[Daily Times - April 15, 2011]

EU Contributes 15m Euros for Recovery Efforts in Pakistan

The European Union (EU) has contributed 15 million Euros (approximately \$21.2 million) to support the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) early recovery work in Pakistan following the floods that devastated large parts of the country. The UNDP's early recovery programme aims to restore livelihoods through job creation, repairing basic community infrastructure and strengthening local government offices to get public services running again. The European Union commitment comes in response to the appeal launched by the Pakistan government and the UNDP for a \$120 million early recovery programme.

An estimated 1,500 local government offices have been severely damaged by the floods. Hundreds of thousands of people are estimated to have lost essential legal records such as birth, death and marriage certificates, records of property and land titles and educational certificates that are essential in reclaiming their property, accessing basic services and claiming compensation. In some areas more than half of those affected have lost important documents.

Contributions such as that of the European Union are crucial to accelerate the pace of recovery in Pakistan. It will allow us to strengthen and restore public services and local government functions in the worst-affected areas. The programme will help restore access to services by repairing and equipping 190 critical local public administration offices provide technical assistance and equipment to 120 government offices in 29 worst-affected districts to facilitate recovery and reissuance of lost documents. One-stop-shops will be created at district, tehsil and union council levels to restore access of citizens to reissue their legal documents and citizen protection centers will be established at local courts and bar associations to provide legal aid to the most affected and vulnerable, including women and the elderly.

[The News - April 06, 2011]

400,000 IDPs Received Aid, Says UN

In the current monthly distribution cycle, more than 400,000 displaced individuals have received relief food assistance in the areas of Sindh and Balochistan. Elsewhere, early recovery activities are scaling up to reach some 3 million beneficiaries until July 2011. According to latest humanitarian update issued close to 2 million individuals have benefited from food and cash-based livelihood support activities, school feeding programmes, and targeted nutritional assistance. More than 230,000 individuals have benefited from participation in cash-for-work schemes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. Essential medication were provided to cover the needs of 12 million

people including the distribution of 1,193 emergency health kits, 472 diarrhoea kits, 348 acute respiratory infection (ARI) kits, 535 vials of anti-snake venom, five surgical kits, and 138 mobile health kits.

More than 849,483 consultations were carried out through 2,403 static and eight mobile health outreach facilities. Around 243,000 people were treated for diarrhoea and 2,088,000 people were treated for ARI. As many as 380,847 tents and 1,359,159 tarpaulins have been distributed covering approximately 1.1 million households. To date, 14,575 one-room shelters and 24,975 transitional shelters are completed. NFIs distributed are 2.4 million blankets, 603,215 kitchen sets and 438,619 bedding. Around 2.62 million people received safe water through rehabilitated water systems, while 5.1 million people received water from trucks.

Purification tablets and chemicals were provided to up to 9.3 million people (some counted more than once) and 4.4 million people received chlorination sachets. Over 949,000 families have received hygiene kits and 7.2 million individuals have been reached with hygiene promotion activities. Safe drinking water an estimated 7.3 million people in need of emergency WASH assistance. Hygiene kits (soap, towels, etc) and WASH kits (jerry cans, 20 litre buckets, etc). Emergency shelter is still needed, especially in Sindh (based on Government estimates of homes damaged or destroyed and shelter cluster. The revised Pakistan Floods Emergency Response Plan (FERP) envisages activities costing \$1.96 billion over a one-year timeframe. So far, contributions for \$1.31 billion (66.7 per cent of requirements) have been received.

[The Nation - April 05, 2011]

Early Recovery Phase: ‘60% Flood Rehabilitation Yet To Materialize’

The UNDP released updated statistics on behalf of the Early Recovery Group (ERWG). The report highlights the challenges that lie ahead, with a main focus on the huge funding gap. Mapping and gap analysis for early recovery shows that the affected population’s overall needs stand in excess of \$1 billion. Only 40 per cent has been realized so far. The UN agency said \$610.8 million are required to overcome critical needs in the ongoing phase. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is short of \$600 million against the estimated funds required for rehabilitation and reconstruction. The floods that hit three-fourths of the country last summer affected an estimated 20 million people. They were the worst floods in the country’s history. They ravaged 100,000 square kilometers of land and crops on over 2.2 million hectares of land were destroyed, while an estimated 450,000 livestock perished. As many as 1.3 million households were affected. The ERWG, comprising 12 government, non-government and UN agencies, was constituted after the rescue and relief phase. The group is working at the federal, provincial and district levels for the early recovery phase. Many flood victims have complained of a lack of relief.

[The Express Tribune - April 16, 2011]

Pakistan Needs \$600m to Bridge Flood Recovery Shortfall

Pakistan urgently needs \$600 million “to improve education, health, livelihoods, governance, and infrastructure”. Announcing a strategic early recovery plan, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt Gen (retd) Nadeem Ahmed said that Pakistan was facing a shortfall of \$600 million to help millions of families rebuild nine months after the country was ravaged by its worst-ever natural disaster last year and holdover funds from the relief phase “must be rerouted to early recovery sectors”. According to UN estimates, more than \$600 million “is still

to come from donors, with more than \$176.5 million needed for agriculture and food security, more than \$174.5 million for housing, and more than \$106.6 million for water and sanitation projects”.

Pakistan had so far received \$1.2-1.3 billion of the initial appeal of \$1.9 billion. It is critical that the international community supports this effort both technically and financially. The transition from relief to long-term recovery is a major challenge for any post-crisis country. This plan is a collaborative effort of the government and the humanitarian community to bridge this gap. It is critical that international community supports this effort both technically and financially. The relief phase in most of the flood-affected areas will end soon in five districts of Sindh and Balochistan and early recovery will commence in 29 worst-hit districts. The early recovery plan covers eight key sectors and four thematic working groups, including food and agriculture, health and nutrition, education, water and sanitation, housing, governance, non-farm livelihoods, and community infrastructure. The 4 thematic groups will ensure that environment, protection, disaster risk reduction and gender considerations.

[The Express Tribune - April 14, 2011]

Jirga Unhappy With Rehabilitation Efforts

Disaster and militancy-affected people of Swat and Kohistan districts at a jirga expressed dismay over the inordinate delay in rehabilitation of infrastructure in the disaster-hit areas. To assess the rehabilitation process carried out by government and non-government organizations, the jirga was attended by representatives of the civil society, political activists and public representatives of the area. People from the flood and militancy-hit union councils of Bahrain, Kalam, Utror, Mankiyal, Balakot, Bishigram and Madyan, described the rehabilitation efforts slow, unsatisfactory and insufficient. They were particularly unhappy with the damaged road connecting Kalam with Madyan and demanded that the single connecting road must be restored for all kinds of traffic before the summer, so as to enable tourists into the area. The government has drawn an unrealistic roadmap for the reconstruction of the dilapidated infrastructure. More than 30 per cent of the primary schools in the area were non-functional due to lack of proper equipment, check and monitoring. Many of the issues arise due to mal-governance; corruption and sloth because the various institutions, both public and private, do not ensure the involvement of the community, rather avoid it. Many of the problems could be overcome with the support of a powerful civil society such as the jirga institution. He promised full support of CRSS for the cause of these marginalized and neglected communities and stressed the need of effective liaison between organizations such as CRSS and IBT. At the end, all participants from the six union councils selected a representative jirga of 20 people to sustain the initiative. They assigned IBT with the duty to facilitate and convene the representative jirga. The jirga was of its first kind in the area and was unique in that the people agreed on a sustained initiative for the solution of their problems.

[The Express Tribune - April 21, 2011]
