
IDPS, DISASTER & FOOD SECURITY

IDPs & Disaster

Displaced: Population Profiling, Verification and Response Survey

1.6million Afghan refugees are registered of which 0.36million want to return their country, according to their Population Profiling, Verification and Response Survey.

The Express Tribune – December 01, 2012

NDMA distributes food bags among flood – hit people: Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab & AJK

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has distributed 255,495 food bags among the flood-hit people of the country.

The NDMA has distributed:

- 58,250 food bags in Balochistan
- 176,245 in Sindh
- 21,000 in the Punjab
- 13,000 tents in the Punjab
- 14,000 in Sindh
- 20,000 in Balochistan
- 300 tents were distributed in Azad Kashmir

Furthermore, the NDMA is taking care of 141,843 flood-hit people in 108 relief camps established in flood-hit areas of Sindh. A total of 12,121 cattle heads have perished and 14,151 villages were affected by flash flooding including 1,512 Punjab villages, 11,894 villages of Sindh and 753 villages of Balochistan.

The News – December 03, 2012

Governor Punjab Opened Flood Relief Account in Private Capacity for Sindh: Punajab

Punjab Governor Sardar Latif Khosa and his two 'advisers' got an account opened in a private bank in their 'private capacity' to collect donations for the flood-affected people of Sindh. The account, titled 'Governor Punjab Flood Relief Fund 2011', was opened with three signatories — Latif Khosa, Zahid Bashir and Farooq Arshad. No official of the Governor's Secretariat was included in the process in a deviation from practice. Governor Khosa said the step had been taken to avoid procedural hiccups that might have hindered immediate provision of funds for supply of relief goods to the affected people. The fund was opened in October last year and closed in February. Millions of rupees were raised and medicines and other relief goods bought to be handed over to the affected people.

Dawn – December 09, 2012

IDPs Demand Return To Orakzai Agency: KPK

A large number of internally-displaced persons based in Hangu, Kohat and other parts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) demanded that the government repatriate them to Orakzai Agency. During a jirga, elders of Mula Khel tribe urged the agency's political agent to expedite the repatriation process of over 30,000 tribesmen to their homes once the security forces have cleared the areas from militants. A tribal elder and former federal minister, Ghazi Gulab Jamal, said the government should provide assistance to the IDPs in this regard. The last two years, when the first phase of repatriation started, foreign NGOs and the government stopped their aid.

The political agent of the agency, Khushal Khan, said he had forwarded their demands to the governor and the commissioner. However, he said the process would take time. "The repatriation of one family needs a lot of arrangements, let alone the repatriation of 30,000 individuals. There is a proper procedure and the government will arrange for the IDP," he added

A majority of the Mula Khel tribe living in Dabori locality of the agency were forced to abandon their homes when security forces launched an operation against militants in 2008. Earlier on, over 150,000 people relocated to Togh Sarai camp of Jungle Khel or their relatives in other areas. The first phase of repatriation started in the lower parts of the agency in 2010 and ended in 2011. However, over 30,000 tribesmen of Mada Khel are still living as IDPs in camps as their hometown Dabori is under the control of militants, while security forces are engaged in restoring peace in the area. In August, the government announced that they have cleared the area from militants and peace has been restored after which the tribesmen of Mula Khel pressed the government to let them return into their native areas.

The Express Tribune – December 12, 2012

Japan Delivers Relief-Goods for Flood-Hit Baloch: Balochistan

Japan has delivered emergency relief goods to two flood-affected districts of Balochistan. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) delivered 3,150 tents, 13,000 blankets and 3,652 plastic sheets, worth \$437,000 to Nasirabad and Jaffarabad districts. In the middle of severe winter, the flood-affected people are in dire need of these items. In his remarks, Oe expressed his sympathy to the sufferings of those affected by the floods this year and stated that the Government of Japan is privileged to be a part of the humanitarian assistance to help 4.85 million people in the flood-affected area. Oe stated that the Government of Japan has recently provided emergency grant aid worth 4.7 million US dollars, in addition to the emergency supplies to Balochistan. With these latest commitments for this year, Japan's humanitarian cooperation in response to the flood damage caused by the floods in 2010, 2011 and 2012 amounts up to approximately 584 million US dollars.

Daily Times – December 15, 2012

Shelter at Last: Sindh

100 hoes for flood survivors have been built in a model village in Thatta by doctors of the Pakistan Medical Association and the Medical Association and the Midland Doctors Association of UK.

The Express Tribune – December 15, 2012

Bara IDPs' Return Linked To Peace Restoration

The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) belonging to Bara tehsil in Khyber Agency could be repatriated within 15 days if the tribes guaranteed the restoration of peace in the areas. The civil administration was planning to take over the security in Bara and hindered of suspended security forces personnel of Khasadaar Force have been restored.

The News - December 22, 2012

Food Insecurity

Global Food Prices All-Time High: World Bank

The World Bank says that despite the recent decline in international food prices, they remain close to all-time high. The world simply cannot afford to see the high and volatile prices become the 'new normal' as millions of people continue to suffer from hunger. According to the bank's quarterly report 'Food Price Watch', prices remain at high levels — seven per cent higher than a year ago, in fact. Grains, in particular, are expensive. They are 12pc costlier than 12 months ago and very close to the all-time high of 2008. Maize is 17pc costlier than in October 2011 and costs 10pc more than in February 2011, despite a decrease of 3pc between August and October. The global food prices stabilized following last July's record peak. In October, prices were 5pc below that peak. The overall prices were driven down by fats and oils, with more modest decline in grains. A seasonal increase in supplies, the absence of panic policies, such as export restrictions, and better expectations for the future are behind such trends, although markets remain tight in general, according to the report published on Thursday. The global wheat production forecast for 2012-13 predicts more than 5pc drop with respect to the record crop of 2011-12. The wheat stock-to-use ratio remains at what some consider as a "relatively comfortable level" of 26pc following the 2011 crop, although not far from the 22pc low registered in 2007-8. The report says the behavior of international prices has not been uniform across commodities in the third quarter of 2012, reflecting different dynamics after the price hike in July. Since July, monthly prices have decreased steadily for maize, increased for wheat and showed mixed patterns for soybean and rice. The stocks are expected to decline markedly in 2012-13. This could potentially cause devastating effects on wheat harvests in Australia, while boosting maize and soyabean crops in South America. But the intensity and length of El Nino remain uncertain. Recent export prices of rice reflect a mixed performance based on origin. The 2012 production is at a par with the 2011 record harvest. Prices of major competitors — India, Pakistan and Vietnam — have increased despite a bumper crop in 2011-12 and enhanced projections for India following a favorable late season monsoon. The effects of the unfolding weather will determine immediate price trends to a large degree, says the report. If large southern hemisphere crops materialize in the second half of 2012-13 seasons, the maize and wheat export markets will ease to some extent. However, the projections of a strong to moderate El Nino, as anticipated back in July, have not come to fruition. The now increasingly expected weak El Nino, lasting through February 2013, will reduce the risks of major droughts in Asia and Australia, but also the probability of rains in other parts of the globe, notably South America. Depreciation of local currency, removal of fuel subsidies, public stockpiling of food and security concerns are adding price pressures in the short run across specific domestic markets. In contrast, stronger trade (formal or informal), more access to food aid and improved economic and security conditions contribute to price easing in other markets.

Dawn - December 01, 2012

Economic Co-Ordination Expects Bumper Production of Sugar

Anticipating bumper sugar production this year, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet decided to purchase 330,000 tons of the commodities from mills for strategic reserves and allow export of 1.2 million tons to ease cash flows for growers and millers. Presided over by Finance Minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, the meeting turned down a request by the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association to procure 1m tons of sugar for strategic reserves through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP). Given the fact that the TCP still had over 177,931 tons of surplus sugar after meeting the requirement of the Utility Stores Corporation, the ECC decided to purchase an additional 330,000 tons from mills to maintain a strategic reserve of 500,000 tons for the next year. The ECC also allowed the export of 500,000 tons of additional sugar against the irrevocable letter of credit or contract with 10 per cent advance payment to be shipped in 90 days of the registration with the State Bank of Pakistan, in addition to the already allowed export of 700,000 tons as per its previous decisions. It was informed that current stocks of sugar in the country stood at about 1.5m tons. A total of 4.7m tons would be produced during the sugar season 2012-13. A total of 5.9m tons of sugar was expected to be available for the consumption year 2012-13 against the annual domestic consumption of 4.2-4.3m tons. As such, there would be about 1.7-1.9m tons of surplus sugar available in the country during 2012-13. Upon request of PSMA, the ministries of commerce and industries had recommended to enhance the limit of strategic reserves from 500,000 tons to 1m tons. The ECC, however, decided to continue with a strategic reserve of 500,000 tons. The meeting was informed that the TCP had procured 687,000 tons of sugar for the current year. Delivery orders for 509,069 tons had been issued to the USC and other agencies till November 2012, leaving a balance of 177,931 tons for allocation. The TCP was releasing about 50,000 tons of sugar to the USC each month, suggesting that the stocks would last till March 2013. The ECC decided to abolish export quotas it had earlier fixed for various mills because most of them had failed to export the commodity or partially exhausted their export quotas. In view of the availability of sugar in abundance, the meeting decided to allow exports by mills without any quota.

Dawn - December 12, 2012

58 percent population is food-insecure: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Mir Israrullah Zehri shared mind-boggling information that around 58 percent of Pakistanis were food insecure. The minister noted that according to the National Nutrition Survey 2011 conducted by Benazir Income Support Programme, 58 percent population was food insecure while 29.6 percent was food insecure with hunger/severe hunger.

The News - December 14, 2012

Sensitive Price Index Inflation Increases By 0.72% on Weekly Basis: Pakistan Bureau Statistics

The sensitive price index (SPI) inflation increased by 0.72 percent for the fourth consecutive week for combined income groups due to continuous rise in the prices of kitchen items mainly, wheat, tomatoes and chicken. The figures released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The impact of weekly inflation has been the lowest for the highest income group, and the experts said that it was mainly due to increase in the prices of wheat flour that has affected the middle

and lower income groups with higher intensity, the weight age of wheat flour is the highest in the consumer pattern for the lowest income

e group.

The PBS data said that the weekly inflation for the income group earning up to Rs 8,000 per month has increased by 0.71 percent as compared to the previous week, the SPI for income group earning between Rs 8,001 and Rs 12,000 per month witnessed an increase of 0.72 percent, while the SPI for the mid-level income group earning Rs 12,001 to Rs 18,000 per month witnessed a surge of 0.76 percent as compared to the previous week. The SPI data shows an increase of 0.75 percent for the upper mid-level earning Rs 18,001 to Rs 35,000 per month, whereas for the top-end class earning more than Rs 35,000 per month the SPI increased by 0.68 percent.

Out of 16 items that registered an increase in prices 14 are the edible ones:

- led by tomato, as its prices jacked up by more than Rs 17 per kilogramme during the week under review to an average of Rs 57.20 per kilogramme
- The price of live chicken increased by around Rs 14 to Rs 155.84 per kilogramme
- The rates of 11 kilogrammes cylinder reached Rs 1,818.41 from Rs 1,738.50 in the said week
- The average price of bananas reached to Rs 55.61 per dozen
- Garlic Rs 127.41 per kg
- Washed masoor pulse Rs 98.23 per kg
- 10 kgs wheat flour bag reached to Rs 347.26 in the said week

Other items that registered increase in prices were cooked beef plate, plain bread, diesel, loose vegetable ghee, beef, and mutton, washing soap and washed moong pulse. The 11 items that witnessed a decrease in prices were petrol, potatoes, onions, sugar, farm chicken eggs, loose red chillies powered, jaggery, washed mash pulse, washed gram pulse, mustard oil and kerosene. Whereas, the prices of 26 items remained unchanged in the said week, the SPI is calculated on the prices of 53 essential items collected from 17 urban centres covering all income groups.

Daily Times - December 30, 2012