

## DISASTER & IDP CRISIS

### Situation of IDPs

#### Farmers Despair: For the Flood-Hit, the Nightmare Isn't Over

Known for its beautiful landscape and thick forests, Dir, Kohistan was once among the largest producer of vegetables such as potatoes, tomatoes, cabbages and peas. According to the locals, some 80,000 trucks would export potatoes to the markets of Punjab and Sindh. But the 2010 floods wrecked havoc in the area by washing away its agriculture land and leaving thousands of farmers helpless. According to the district government, over 11,000 acres of agriculture land and 45 major irrigation channels were washed away. Situated along the Kumrat River, Barikot, Biyar and Patrak villages were adversely affected by the floods. According to the farmers, the government has not taken any steps for rehabilitation yet. The farmers of Biyar village lamented that they have not been assisted by government and non-government organizations in agriculture sector. When asked about government steps for rehabilitation of the agriculture sector, Member Provincial Assembly Malik Bacha Salih said that there is no doubt that the floods destroyed everything in this area, however, the government and NGOs have assisted every farmer with cash and commodities. The government will soon restore irrigation channels and farmers will be helped in restoration of their lands too.

The Express Tribune - February 23, 2012

#### 2.5 Million Flood Survivors Still At Risk

Aid agencies have warned that lackluster response from the international donors to last year's floods in Sindh and Balochistan had made it extremely hard for millions of people to make it through the next few months. In a report titled Pakistan Floods Emergency Lessons from a Continuing Disaster released here the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum, a network of the 41 largest international charities in the country, called on the government to intensify efforts to limit the impact of future disasters. Donors and the government must step up their response immediately, while the report revealed that an estimated 43 per cent of the affected people were severely short of food. Each flood, drought and earthquake that Pakistan suffers pushes people even deeper into poverty and destitution. They expressed the fear that the situation would increase malnutrition levels, which were already well above the emergency threshold in Sindh and Balochistan before the floods struck. The coalition comprising Oxfam, Save the Children, Care International, Concern Worldwide, Plan International, Action Aid, Islamic Relief and International Rescue Committee called upon the government to boost its efforts to limit the impact of future disasters. The report pointed out that the combined efforts of Pakistani officials, donors, UN agencies, NGOs, people, and affected communities themselves had saved thousands of lives and provided vital assistance to millions of people. At least 2.5 million people were still living without food, water, shelter, sanitation and healthcare which had put them at serious risk of malnutrition, disease and deepening poverty. The report said that greater political commitment and resources were needed to make them more effective and to tackle the social and economic injustices that left some Pakistanis more exposed than others to the impact of hazards such as floods and earthquakes. Such an approach would ultimately save both lives and money, leaving Pakistan safer, stronger and more self-reliant, it stressed. The needs of the communities affected by the floods are still enormous with women, children, the elderly and disabled particularly vulnerable. The humanitarian community should continue to provide assistance so that flood-affected families not only meet their basic needs but can rebuild their lives. The agencies said that long-term support was needed to ensure recovery of the affected communities. People are still at risk with tens of thousands still displaced in the flood-affected areas while many have returned home to little or nothing. Communities must be strengthened and further funding is needed to assist them to restore their livelihoods and rebuild their lives. Six months on, the crisis seems to have been forgotten by the international community. The Floods 2011 Rapid Response Plan launched by the UN in September last year sought \$357 million but remains less than 50 per cent funded. A few donors, notably the European

Commission and the US, have responded generously but the response from many others has been disappointing, the report said. Rates of malnutrition among women and children in the flood-affected districts continue to be at alarming levels. The floods have exposed and deepened a food crisis in Sindh that has resulted in malnutrition rates far worse than those in Sub-Saharan. The report said the April farming season was likely to be missed by many farmers unless immediate action was taken to rehabilitate the fields and distribute seeds and tools required for farming. Pakistan must immediately strengthen its ability to deal with future disasters or the gains made through developments efforts would be lost year after year.

Dawn – February 17, 2012

## Relief & Rehabilitation Responses

### Government Plans to Step Up, As WB Downgrades Aid Programme

With a majority of the 2010 flood survivors still deprived of the first tranche of compensation, World Bank's move of downgrading their aid programme has compelled Pakistan to increase its coverage to 531,000 households in the next two months. A recent report by the Washington-based lending agency reveals that until November 2011, the government had disbursed the first tranche of Rs60, 000 to only 250,000 households – less than one-fourth of the target. The WB downgraded the Citizen's Damage Compensation Programme (CDCP) to moderately satisfactory after it found that Sindh and Baluchistan were lagging way behind. Both provinces, ruled by Pakistan People's Party-led coalition governments, could not complete the Houses Damage Survey – a prerequisite to disburse the first tranche of Rs. 20,000. The programme implementation report was produced after the conclusion of the second Joint Supervision and Evaluation Mission visit to Pakistan in November. The mission comprised representatives from USAID, UK's Department for International Development, Italy and World Bank. The next mission is expected to visit Pakistan in the first week of March. The WB's downgrade has left the government with no other option but to pull up their socks as leaving a majority of population without compensation may work against them ahead of the general elections. A WB official said, on the condition of anonymity, that the moderately satisfactory tag compelled the authorities to put an extra effort in disbursing compensation, with the hope that the WB's next mission may reverse their decision.

#### **Citizen's Damage Compensation Programme:**

In the wake of the epic floods in the country's history, the government had initially announced to give Rs 100,000 to each affected family. The total cost of the programme had been estimated at Rs160 billion. However, the government was unable to spare the required fiscal space and, later, decreased the compensation to Rs 60,000 per family. Of that, Rs 20,000 has been distributed among 1.6 million households while the remaining Rs40, 000 will only be given to those who have lost their houses. The WB has approved a \$25 million loan for the CDCP. The cabinet division and the National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) are the implementing agencies of the programme. Overall, the programme is on track except for a delay in rollover in Sindh and Baluchistan and this is beyond the control of NADRA, said Tariq Malik, deputy chairman of the entity. He added that while in Sindh the disbursement has started, so far no compensation has been given in Baluchistan due to a delay in the completion of the Houses Damage Survey. Malik said that against a target of 1.1 million, so far 531,296 households have received the first tranche of the compensation money. In Punjab 248,000 households have received Rs 6 billion, 203,000 households have received Rs 3.1 billion in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, while in Sindh only 73,000 households have received Rs83 million in compensation.

#### **Discrepancy in survey reports**

An official of the international lending agency said on condition of anonymity that Houses Damage Survey's results are different than the estimates of damaged houses reported in the Damage and Needs Assessment Report, conducted jointly by the WB and the Asian Development Bank. He said Punjab had reported 615,000 damaged or destroyed homes but the survey only confirmed 310,000. Similarly, Sindh reported 380,000 destroyed houses, while the third party-conducted survey confirmed 218,000 affected houses. The mission

noted bottlenecks in the availability of hardware and other logistics for setting up registration centers, which somewhat hampered implementation progress, the WB report stated.

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### **Flood Money Went To BISP: Civil Society Report**

The federal and provincial governments diverted billions of rupees for relief work to the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), according to a civil society report, which was issued by the Peoples Accountability Commission on Floods (PACF), a network of volunteers and representatives of flood-affected communities in Sindh. According to the report, eight million rupees was set aside for the rehabilitation of flood-affected people in nearly 200 villages and for the construction of 40,000 houses under the annual development programme for 2011-2012. The amount was allocated to MPAs to do work in their constituencies. The report, titled Critical Situation of Humanitarian Funding for Flood-Affected Communities said that around 90 per cent of flood water has reportedly receded from affected areas, but more than 55,953 peoples and 10,000 families still live in temporary settlements in Sindh. About 42 per cent of the residents in temporary settlements have said that they don't have clothing and support to face the cold. Critical needs include the renovation of about 2,800 partially damaged schools and transitional schools structures in 1,450 schools that were totally damaged. The report claimed that Rs12 billion was reserved for the Sindh Social Relief Fund in 2010 and 2011 to mitigate natural disasters and emergencies, but the money has gone into the BISP instead. The report also claimed that nearly 68 per cent of flood victims have been discriminated against and denied relief in areas such as Mirpurkhas, Badin, Umerkot and Tharparkar. The report quoted the government figure of spending Rs2.281 billion on emergency relief services in the shape of dry rations, drinking water, tents, plastic sheets, transportation, suction pumps but it was not enough.

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### **Pakistan, UN Appeal Additional \$440 Million for Flood Victims**

The United Nations (UN) and Pakistan, jointly launched Floods 2011 Early Recovery Framework for affected areas in Sindh and Balochistan. They appealed for \$440 million from international donors for the restoration of livelihoods, support for food security, basic social services, shelter, community infrastructure, health, nutrition, water and sanitation. We have put in place a financial tracking system to ensure transparent utilization of resources and required information will be made available on the website said Timo Pakkala, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan. While answering a query, Pakkala said the latest appeal of \$440 million is in addition to earlier flash appeal made by UN. To another query about administrative cost incurred by UN for undertaking this early recovery program, the UN official replied that the administrative cost of this program would be standing in the range of 15 percent. Some donors' representatives raised the issue of donors fatigue and inquired about efforts being made to synergize new flood recovery appeal when the previous one for 2010 was not yet fully completed. To this, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator said that the donors had utilized \$1.3 billion for floods that hit Pakistan during 2010, but reminded that the floods in 2011 had affected 35 percent of the same population that had also been affected in 2010. Advisor to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenues, Dr Hafeez Shaikh said the government has selected 15 distinguished personalities for undertaking the work related to flood affected areas to ensure effective check and balance. We are accountable to the parliament and independent media is also playing its role, he added. We highly appreciate the unflinching support and assistance provided by the international community to the people of Pakistan, during these testing times. The United Nations agencies, foreign governments, donors, national and international NGOs, and private philanthropy all worked hand in glove with the national and provincial disaster management authorities and other relevant government agencies, while responding to immense needs in the affected areas, Shaikh further said. During the early recovery phase, the government, the United Nations and its partners will support communities by engaging in planning and exploring solutions to reduce the devastating impact of the 2011 floods, and helping communities to quickly return to a normal life pattern while adopting measures for safer and more resilient living with better

preparation to meet the event of a disaster, he added. The government is committed to ensure transparency in utilization of funds in all activities related to the Framework, while at the same time, it will facilitate the international and humanitarian community for smooth execution of the framework, he said. The Floods Early Recovery Framework is a collaborative effort of the government, the UN and civil society to bridge relief to recovery. It is critical that the international community support this effort to make communities safer, more resilient, and better prepared in the event of possible future flooding and other disasters, said Pakkala. An initial rapid response plan for the 2011 floods launched in September is currently funded at 47 percent, or \$168 million, of the \$356 million required meeting humanitarian and early recovery needs through March 2012. The government, UN and its partners have delivered food for more than 3 million people, and provided emergency shelter to more than 450,000 households along with non-food household items. More than 1.2 million people have received clean drinking water, and 1.35 million people have received essential medicines and emergency health care. Further funding is critical, people are at still at risk – especially during this pivotal time where people have moved home and crucial early recovery activities are needed to restore livelihoods and rebuild lives,

**The News - February 22, 2012**

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### **Rehabilitation of Displaced Tribesmen: Donors Meet Next Month to Raise \$200m**

A donors' conference will be held next month to raise the required \$200 million fund for quick rehabilitation of internally displaced persons of Federally Administered Tribal Areas. A handout issued here on Sunday said that during a presentation on Fata Disaster Management Authority, held at Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Barrister Masood Kausar was told that so far 145,338 displaced families out of total 298,715 had been sent back to their permanent dwellings. The whole process cost Rs. 7391.260 million including onetime cash grant of Rs. 25,000 per family and Rs. 15,000 for provision of six-month ration to each returning household. The repatriated families belonged to Bajaur, Mohmand, Orakzai, Kurram and South Waziristan agencies. The governor was told that an Early Recovery Mechanism for Fata was set up to lay foundations for long term development of the area by catalyzing sustainable uplift opportunities for the returning families. Key sectors identified in this regards include agriculture, food assistance, health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, community restoration, infrastructure and protection. The transitional recovery process will initially cover four key agencies including Bajaur, Mohmand, Orakzai and South Waziristan. The participants of the briefing were told that an Early Recovery Framework for quick rehabilitation of IDPs was set up with an estimated cost of \$200 million for which a fund raising donors' conference would be convened next month. The governor was informed that 298,715 families, who were displaced from their permanent abodes in different agencies on different occasions, were registered till the end of year 2011 in Jalozi, Togh Serai, Nahaqi, Danish School and New Durrani camps. Nahaqi and Danish School camps were closed after the inmates moved back to their homes whereas IDPs still lodged in the remaining camps were being provided adequate relief. About payment of compensation for the damaged properties of IDPs, the governor was told that Rs. 1054 million were distributed among 8,618 residents of Bajaur Agency so far. It was said that 5,518 returning families were provided shelters in Bajaur, Mohmand, Orakzai and South Waziristan agencies. On the occasion, Mr. Khan said that FDMA also came to rescue flood victims in 2010 and provided relief to people in Khyber, Mohmand, South Waziristan, Frontier Region of Dera Ismail Khan, FR Peshawar, FR Kohat and FR Tank. The relief goods including tents, non-food items, food packages, hygiene kits and blankets were provided to flood survivors, he said, adding Rs. 32.200 million cash compensation was also paid to the legal heirs of 91 deceased and 89 injured. He said that FDMA was established after the extension of National Disaster Management Order to Fata in 2008 while it initiated rudimentary functions in mid 2010 by its successful response to the floods. The FDMA, he said, was working on modern lines to meet any situation in the wake of natural and manmade calamities. The governor stressed the need for making sufficient and adequate arrangements for IDPs at Jalozi and other camps to ensure their proper look after.

**Dawn - February 23, 2012**

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### **UNHCR Completes 7,000 Shelters for KP Flood Victims**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has completed construction of over 7,000 one-room permanent shelters for flood affected families whose homes were destroyed in the 2010 floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Government of Japan donated \$59 million to support the UNHCR flood rehabilitation assistance programmes including the agency's shelter project for flood-affected Pakistanis and Afghan refugees. A UNHCR communiqué said the commission had planned to build 9,400 one-room shelters for flood-affected Pakistanis and some 4,200 shelters for Afghan refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

**The News - February 06, 2012**

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### **In Mad Dash: Flood Victim Killed In Stampede at Kot Addu**

A stampede that broke out at a Watan card centre established in a government college in Kot Addu, quickly turned ugly for the authorities when a flood victim died. Around 2,000 flood victims belonging to different villages of Tehsil Kot Adu in Muzaffargarh district had gathered to collect their Watan cards at a government college. Kot Addu Deputy Superintendent Police (DSP) Asadullah Khan said that Muhammad Ramzan died after a pillar fell on him during the ensuing stampede. Police officials as well as members of the revenue department were later deployed to control the volatile situation. A local human right activist, Wasim Shakir, while talking to revealed that a similar incident had occurred last year too, when a flood victim died after flood victims were baton-charged by the police at the same Watan card centre. The deceased Ramzan, a father of six, was a resident of Kasba Gujrat. Flood victims later protested against the tragic incident blaming police and revenue department officials for the mishap. They also alleged that officials were charging Rs1, 000 – 2,000 to each flood victim for letting them through to the centre to obtain their cards.

#### **A turn for the worse**

In a separate incident at another Watan card centre in Government Higher Secondary School Sanawan, seven police personnel suffered injuries after a protracted standoff with the protesters. The commotion began when police staffers interrupted a group of students who wanted to let an elderly man bypass the long queue of flood victims. The situation took a nasty turn when a rumour spread amongst protesters that a student named Ubaidur Rehman, picked up by the police during the initial standoff, had been killed. In the ensuing protests, a police vehicle was also set on fire while another was severely damaged. To disperse the protesters, the police officials resorted to aerial firing which lasted for about two hours. Seven policemen, including a sub-inspector, also received injuries after being manhandled in the fiasco while four civilians including student Ubaidur Rehman also got injured due to police torture as well as firing during the scuffle. The protesters laid siege to the Sanawan police station momentarily too. However, the mob dispersed peacefully after the release of the detainee Ubaidur Rehman.

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### **Aftermath: Infuriated By Empty Promises, Victims of Swat Operation Take To the Streets**

Sharam Karo, Haya Karo, Moawiza ada karo were the slogans inscribed on placards during a protest held by victims of the 2009 military operation in Swat. The protest, held in Kabal tehsil, aimed to pressurise the government to release the amount of compensation promised to them. The protesters gathered at Nishat Chowk, from where they marched towards the DCO's office and staged a sit-in against the injustice. They were complaining against the Provincial Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Settlement Authority and the district administration for delaying the approved reimbursements. A total of 900 houses were damaged in Koza Bandai union council of Kabal tehsil during the military operation. Some 300 houses were completely damaged. The government had announced a compensation of Rs400, 000 for fully damaged houses and Rs160, 000 for partially damaged houses, while those injured in the operation were to receive Rs100, 000. However, so far only 500 displaced persons have been compensated, while the remaining 400 are still awaiting compensation. It has been four years since our houses were destroyed during the military operation. The government had announced a compensation package for the displaced people but we have still not received any funds, said, Rashid Ahmed, a resident of Bandai. We are sick and tired of the government's hollow promises now, he added. Some protesters even blamed the elected bodies of embezzling millions of rupees from the funds allocated to them. Mohebul Haq, another protester whose house was destroyed in the operation, said not only have they been deprived of their houses, but their shops and crops were also destroyed during the conflict. The elected members are busy accumulating properties in posh areas while we have been left homeless, he said. District Revenue Officer Niaz Muhammad Khan, when approached for comments, assured that the remaining people will be paid 'soon' in accordance with the government's policy. The victims warned of blocking the Peshawar-Swat Road if their demands were not fulfilled.

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**Disaster Preparedness: NDMA, WFP Join Hands to Set up Humanitarian Facilities**

**To ensure better preparedness for future emergencies, the World Food Programme (WFP) on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to construct nine humanitarian response facilities across the country.** The proposed facilities will be built at a cost of over Rs1.5 billion in strategic areas to provide training to humanitarian staff and facilities to ensure a prompt response in case of any disaster. Based on historical disaster frequency, population density per region and consultations with stakeholders, WFP has proposed construction of new facilities in Gilgit, Peshawar, Lahore, Quetta, Muzaffargarh, Hyderabad, Muzaffarabad, Sukkar and Islamabad. The facilities will house contingency stocks including food and non-food items, covered storage, mobile storage units and training areas with temperature-controlled spaces. Upon completion of the project, there will be a dedicated humanitarian response facility in each province with two facilities in the larger provinces of Punjab and Sindh. The project is expected to be completed by mid 2013. The MoU was signed by NDMA Chairman Dr Zafar Iqbal Qadir and Acting Humanitarian Coordinator and WFP Country Representative Jean-Luc Siblot. The WFP country representative said, I am confident that these facilities will ensure a robust, effective and timely response to possible future emergencies. Under the agreement, WFP will also enhance the storage capacity of the NDMA and the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities, enabling them to stock around 30,000 metric tons of emergency items including food, non-food and medical supplies for the humanitarian community. Australia, Canada, Denmark, Japan and the Netherlands have provided funds to WFP to support the project.

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