

## IDPs, Disaster & Food Security

### IDPs & Disaster

#### **Record 800,000 People Became Refugees in 2011: UN**

Ahead of World Refugee Day, the UN refugee agency reported that a record 800,000 people were forced to flee across borders last year, more than at any time since 2000. The new refugees are part of a total of 4.3 million people who were newly displaced last year, owing to a string of major humanitarian crises that began in late 2010 in Cte d'Ivoire, and followed by others in Libya, Somalia, Sudan and elsewhere, according to Global Trends 2011, issued by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). "2011 saw suffering on an epic scale. For so many lives to have been thrown into turmoil over so short a space of time means enormous personal cost for all who were affected," the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres.

**Pakistan Today - June 20, 2012**

#### **Rehabilitation of Displaced Families Begins In Kurram**

Rehabilitation process of displaced families belonging to various areas of Kurram Agency formally began. Political Officer Javedullah Mahsud said the government would continue efforts for restoring peace in Kurram Agency. He called upon the tribal elders to extend cooperation to the political administration in bringing back normalcy and initiating uplift projects in the area. The official said that Commissioner Kohat Division Sahibzada Mohammad Anis had reviewed the rehabilitation process of uprooted families and the steps taken for the restoration of peace during his three-day visit to Kurram Agency. The elders including Attaullah Bangash and Hamid Hussain Turi praised the efforts of government for bringing peace and launching rehabilitation process in different areas of the tribal agency. Hundreds of families had been displaced from various areas of Kurram Agency after eruption of violence in 2007.

**The News - June 25, 2012**

#### **Overview of Living Conditions and Facilities Provided To IDPs: Report By Save the Children**

More than 240,000 people have been registered as displaced from Khyber Agency since January. The report says that the revised Humanitarian Operational Plan (HOP) for current IDP crisis is currently 45% under-funded. The HOP covers all relief activities for IDPs while they are displaced, as well as support for their return back home. It is an inter-cluster plan that provides a holistic approach to meet outstanding humanitarian needs, factoring in anticipated shifts and changes throughout the year. The total amount needed under the revised HOP is 307 million dollars. Only 139 million dollars (45%) has been funded. According to the government, the displacement may last for six to nine months, however aid agencies predict this will be a protracted crisis lasting longer. The report says that continued funding shortfalls will result in severe constraints on the ability of humanitarian agencies to deliver lifesaving aid to the affected population. The report further mentions that over 90% of new IDPs are staying off camp, living in rented spaces or with host families. It suggests that it is imperative to assist the off camp IDPs, as very limited relief services are reaching them. As most IDPs are women and children who belong to a conservative culture; they are unwilling to live in camps and many are

unable to access relief services. IDPs living with host communities say that they don't expect to go home within the next twelve months.

According to Save the Children's observation study, over 82% of women reported a decrease in frequency of breastfeeding after displacement. Further efforts are required to ensure access to health services and nutrition support especially for IDP women and children. The report mentions that access to basic services and facilities is challenging for the many vulnerable families who have been displaced. Local authorities have requested support from the humanitarian community to assist in meeting the unmet needs. The scope of this support includes reception and protection of new IDPs; support for large numbers of IDPs in camps and among host communities, managing returns and enabling re-settling populations inside FATA to re-establish their livelihoods and meet basic needs. The report says that the government of Pakistan must ensure aid workers have continued access to conflict affected areas, and that the security of aid workers is prioritized. It says that work visas for international aid workers, including those from INGOs and UN agencies are being delayed causing increased administrative costs and inability to adequately support projects. It mentions that proposed changes to INGO registration in Pakistan may also reduce aid agencies' abilities to hire the most qualified staff and implement effective programmes. It analyses that overall, these increased challenges could lead to aid becoming less efficient and reaching fewer communities, which would ultimately delay Pakistan's already slow development and urges the international community to advocate for reduced restrictions and the government's increased support of aid agencies.

**The News - June 23, 2012**

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### **NDMA Conference Discusses Monsoon Contingency Plan**

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) organized a national conference on monsoon preparedness and contingency plan at the Prime Minister's Secretariat Auditorium, to share strategy to deal with upcoming monsoon. NDMA Chairman Dr Zafar Iqbal Qadir chaired the meeting and the idea was to have a national perspective on monsoon contingency plans for the upcoming monsoon. It was a follow-up session after a high-level meeting held on June 15 to share provincial plans for upcoming monsoon, at the Prime Minister's Secretariat, where provincial bodies and agencies related to disaster management gave presentation on their plans. The NDMA chairman opened the forum and stated that pre-monsoon coordination meeting, as a regular practice, was held in the mid of June every year, however, bottom-up approach remained striking feature of the consultative meetings held at provincial headquarters. This consultative process stretching from December 2011 until now has proved overwhelmingly effective and has made contingency planning profoundly comprehensive. He further apprised the participants that contingency planning was being done on the basis of the worst scenario. The aim of whole exercise is to prepare a comprehensive, actionable and holistic pre-monsoon preparedness and national contingency plan before the upcoming monsoon. The objective is to have maximum input from all relevant stakeholders so that this time contingency plan is more responsive, workable and owned by all partners concerned. Afterwards, different federal agencies, UN bodies, humanitarian networks shared their plans for the upcoming monsoon season. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Ahmed Kamal, the member (DRR) who applauded the participants for their comments and inputs in order to make the process more refined, practicable and comprehensive.

**Daily Times - June 27, 2012**

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