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## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS - IDPs

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### **435,429 IDPs from North Waziristan Registered So Far**

The government has so far registered 435,429 internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected due to ongoing operation in North Waziristan with the help of National Database Registration Authority (NADRA). According to latest official data available, the government registered 35,381 families including 114,596 males, 137,301 females and 183,532 children. On June 15, Pakistan launched the military operation Zarb-e-Azb against militants in the troubled North Waziristan agency of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) that resulted in a temporary migration and relocation of displaced persons from the area of operation to safer locations. Consistent to the earlier instructions, the government assigned the task to the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) to make necessary rehabilitation arrangement of IDPs. However this time the government decided to engage National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) too in the process which is in line with the mandate of the organization.

Upon instructions the NDMA now engaged with ministry of SAFRON, Federally Administrative Tribal Areas Disaster Management Authority, Provincial Disaster Management Authority of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, Pakistan Army, Civil Administration and other partners to coordinate and implement the plan for efficient management of all IDPs issues. The NDMA team, led by Member Operations NDMA, Brig Mirza Kamran Zia has already been deployed in district Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to monitor and facilitate the present status of IDPs situation and ensure provision of effective and timely relief assistance to the IDPs within and outside camps. So far a total of 34,625 families have crossed over from North Waziristan areas of operation and have been registered in Bannu. About 1100 families have arrived in D.I. Khan and 480 in Lakki Marwat district too.

The relief camps were immediately established at the onset of operation. The main IDPs camp has been established in BakaKhel, Union Council in district Bannu of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Unfortunately not many people have opted to live in the camp and the bulk preferred to live with their relatives and host communities as per past practice. The team, along with senior civil and military officials, monitored IDPs camp management to ensure that people are facilitated with all necessary apparatus and arrangements. The relief camps have been provided with all necessary facilities including provision of shelter, health, hygiene, latrines, cooked food, electricity and mosque. Food and financial assistance is being rendered to the affected people at the time of registration at check points. NADRA mobile registration points have been put in place at the check points too.

Polio vaccination of entire displaced population and health check up of those in need is also being ensured at check posts. Furthermore, free transport has been arranged for daily evacuations to bring the IDPs to relief camps. There are efforts to expand the camps and make additional arrangements to facilitate all those IDPs who wish to live and return in the camp. In this connection a field hospital is also being set up jointly by the army and civil administration to meet the additional demand due to influx of 45,000 IDPs in to the area. Food and cash distribution for the affected population is also being done in the area. WFP has also established a food point in the area, with the approval of federal government and their assistance is being largely appreciated. NDMA has handed over additional 2,000 tents to the FDMA for further distribution among the IDPs. All planning and execution for this humanitarian effort is being done jointly by the NDMA, FDMA, PDMA KP, Pakistan Army and civil administration.

**Daily Times - July 02, 2014**

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## **Helping Hands: World's 'Largest' Volunteer Force to Raise Funds for IDPs**

The world's largest volunteer force would be formed in the Punjab to help the people displaced in the wake of a security operation in North Waziristan, Education Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan announced. He was chairing a meeting of vice chancellors of public universities at the Government College University (GCU). The meeting decided that educational institutions would raise funds for internally displaced persons (IDPs) with the help of students. Without elaborating how many volunteers would be part of the force, the minister said it would consist of students from schools, colleges and universities across the province. Calling the volunteers 'fundraisers', he said members of the force would go door-to-door to collect funds for the relief and rehabilitation of the IDPs. He said he hoped the force would secure a place in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest volunteer youth force in the world. The meeting decided that the funds raised by the volunteers would be contributed to Chief Minister's Relief Fund for IDPs. Each university will form a 'fundraisers unit' the units will be interlinked through an online system for which a committee has been formed.

The minister said the volunteer force would also organize sporting events in cities across the province with the help of the Punjab Sports Board. "The proceeds from the charity and fundraising matches, featuring national level players, will be spent on IDPs' rehabilitation." Khan, who also holds the office of law minister, said that Operation Zarb-e-Azb against terrorists had entered a crucial stage. "It is vital that the nation, including political forces, stand united in these testing times." "The government will continue to help the IDPs until their rehabilitation. The people of the Punjab will lead from the front in that respect," said Khan. He said the IDPs would be given SIM cards that would help streamline the process of disbursing funds among them. He paid rich tributes to those who had rendered sacrifices in the fight against terrorists. The meeting decided that faculty members and non-academic staff would donate a day's salary for the IDPs. The minister slammed the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf chief Imran Khan for his allegations regarding rigging in the May 2013 general elections. "Everyone has dismissed Imran's accusations.

Even the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are questioning his stance," he said. Commenting on Imran Khan's announcement of organizing a long march to Islamabad on August 14, he said everyone had the right to express their opinion in a democratic system. However, he said, Imran Khan's statement of "executing police officers" was disturbing. "Doesn't it reflect a Taliban mindset when you talk about hanging police personnel?" the minister asked. He said the government would implement the findings of the judicial commission probing the June 17 mayhem in Model Town in which 14 people were killed.

**The Express Tribune - July 03, 2014**

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## **IDPs Relief: Canada Donates \$6.7m for Feeding Schoolchildren**

Canada has donated US\$6.7 million to the World Food Programme (WFP) to support its nutrition and school feeding programmes and other relief activities for the internally-displaced population of North Waziristan. The contribution will enable the Rome-based organization to run its school feeding programme without a break in food supplies until December 2014, supporting more than 200,000 students in nearly 1,200 schools in six agencies of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata). Part of the donation will also be used for nutrition activities. In addition, the funds will support the milling and fortification of 2,905 tons of wheat donated by the Pakistan government to WFP for its relief operation. "Canada is proud to contribute to the World Food Programme's efforts in Pakistan to increase food security and ensuring access to nutritious food," Canadian High Commissioner Greg Giokas said.

"WFP is Canada's largest humanitarian partner and we will continue together to respond to Pakistan's emergencies and save lives by getting food to the hungry quickly, while also working

to prevent hunger in the future.” “WFP applauds these contributions from Canada that will boost nutrition and education needs in Pakistan,” said WFP Country Director Lola Castro. She said, “WFP’s interventions aim to treat malnutrition among women and children through providing supplementary foods – an important step in achieving nutrition security among this community.” WFP’s school feeding programme focuses on conflict-affected areas of Fata which are highly food insecure and are characterized by low literacy rates, especially among women.

WFP is targeting approximately 60 per cent of the schools in six agencies with the aim of stabilizing enrolment and encouraging boys and girls to get an education. School meals help address short-term hunger needs and low enrolment rates through onsite feeding, as well as providing take-home rations, which persuade families to send their children to school. Canada has provided WFP with much-needed support amounting to almost \$55 million over the past four years. These donations have been critical in sustaining relief food assistance for people affected by floods and insecurity. Funding received from Canada has also supported WFP projects to construct storage facilities across the country in order to boost disaster preparedness and response capacities at the field level. WFP aims to assist 8.3 million people between 2013 and 2015 at a total cost of \$535 million seeking, among others, to improve economic opportunities and promote social inclusion in FATA, boost community resilience in disaster-prone areas, and address nutrition and education in the country.

**The Express Tribune - July 03, 2014**

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### **0.57m IDPs Registered, Rs 329.5m Distributed So Far, Nawaz Informed**

A total of 572,529 people, belonging to 44,633 families have been registered as internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the aftermath of operation Zarb-e-Azb, which started on June 15. This was revealed in a detailed status report compiled by all coordination and implementation organizations providing relief to Waziristan IDPs, which was submitted to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The prime minister was told that an amount of Rs 329.568 million has been distributed among 27,664 families as financial support. 4,500 tones of relief goods have been distributed among 31,000 registered families by the federal government with the assistance of Pakistan Army and the World Food Programme (WFP). About 5,000 food packages, weighing 110-kg each, are being distributed every day through 11 food distribution points among the affected people. Non-food items have also been distributed among 31,000 IDP families. As per prime minister’s directions, from July 8 each registered IDP family will get compensation through mobile SIMs under a transparent mechanism. This has been done to ensure quick relief to IDPs besides bringing more transparency in distribution of money. Beneficiaries would be allowed to collect their money from mobile franchises, retailers and banks.

The report said round-the-clock supply of electricity has been ensured in IDP camps. Temporary mosques have been built to facilitate the families living in camps and medical facilities, including doctors and medicines, especially for treatment of sunstrokes, cramps in legs and polio vaccination, have been made available for them. Steady supply of clean drinking water has also been ensured. The Pakistan Army has also established 33 points across the country for collection of donations from the general public. The Finance Ministry has released Rs. 1.5 billion so far to provide relief to the IDPs. The Economic Coordination Committee of the cabinet has recently approved 60,000 tones of wheat costing Rs 2.8 billion for distribution among the IDPs. Meanwhile, Rescue 1122 has provided three state-of-the-art ambulances along with necessary staff to assist displaced persons in emergencies. Also, 15 mobile veterinary clinics have been established in Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Dera Ismail Khan, Karak and Tank in which more than 20,000 animals belonging to the IDPs have been treated, while more than 42,000 animals have so far been vaccinated.

**Daily Times – July 07, 2014**

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### **Displaced Families: With Starts and Stops, Registration Process Falls Apart**

The registration of internally displaced persons from North Waziristan Agency started in the city after a three-hour delay and came to a halt before the scheduled end. The process of registering people from Miranshah was supposed to begin at 7am but it started at around 10am due to a lack of security and other necessary arrangements, said Haseeb Khan, who is the deputy director for the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA). Disaster management officials and families reached the venue, Government Degree College in Hayatabad Phase 7, early in the morning but there was no staff to organize the people into queues. The registration was stopped at that point, said Khan. It will start again, he added, when the people of Miranshah will be registered with families from Boya and Datta Khel. However, the mismanagement meant that the displaced families had to wait under the scorching sun. Ameer Rehman, who reached the venue on time, "The thirst is unbearable, it's Ramazan and we had to wait in a long line." Only two gates were open to enter the college, said Syed Kamal, another displaced person. There was no separate entrance for women, who also had to suffer the heat and the rush, he added. The process, which was meant to begin full swing on July 7 will continue till July 14. After the families from tehsils of North Waziristan Agency are registered in Peshawar, they will be eligible to receive Rs. 5,000 in cash for rent for accommodation and the Ramazan package as promised by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

**Daily Situation Report:** According to a daily situation report issued by the chief secretary's control room set up at the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), a total of 62,493 families and 787,888 individuals have been registered at PDMA registration points. Sunday's reports had placed this figure at 572,529. A large number of livestock have also been brought over by the people. A relief camp has been set up at Bannu and works under the PDMA. It will support the district administration in relief work. The situation report states a decision was taken by the federal government to also set up camps inside the frontier regions which fall within the jurisdiction of the Fata administration. Camps established by the FDMA are jointly administered by the Pakistan Army and the disaster management authority, where all facilities like shelter, cooked food, water and other allied services are being provided.

**Streamlining Assistance:** As many of the people have chosen to live off camp sites, the provincial government has decided to convert material aid into cash assistance for at least 15,000 families each of which will be given Rs3,000 per month up to six months, stated the report. Both FDMA and PDMA are transferring aid on the basis of data verified by the National Database and Registration Authority. The statement added that humanitarian assistance has been streamlined, on the orders of the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa chief secretary, by channeling relief through the government, with particular focus on the offices of the deputy commissioners. The PDMA has requested all deputy commissioners to form district-level committees to gather information about displaced people living with their relatives. This data will be used for security as well as the provision of relief these people.

**Health Facilities:** The director-general of health services paid a visit to Bannu and formed teams to provide round-the-clock emergency care to the displaced people. This will include the treatment for heat stroke, joint aches, and immunizations among other complaints. The public health engineering department has also been directed to ensure they provide clean drinking water at the camps. Additional vehicles were also placed at the disposal of the Bannu district administration. Rescue 1122 has provided three state-of-the-art ambulances as well as staff, added the statement.

## **Disorder Reigns As Registration of IDPs Begins In Peshawar**

The registration process of displaced people from North Waziristan was suspended for more than an hour on the first day at the registration centre in the provincial capital. The internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in Peshawar, Charsadda and Nowshera districts were supposed to register themselves at the registration centre in Peshawar. Director-General FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) Arshad Khan told that indiscipline and disorder on the part of some affected people on the main gate of registration centre caused some disturbance in the registration process. However, the registration was resumed after a short break. "The affected people were asked time and again to keep the line in order to get themselves registered by their own turn but they did not keep the order," he said and added that due to late arrival of the officials of a cell-phone company to the registration centre also delayed the process. The FDMA has set up registration centre at Government College of Commerce and Management Sciences, Hayatabad, Phase 7, Peshawar for those affected families from North Waziristan Agency who was living in Peshawar, Charsadda and other adjacent districts.

The registration process would continue till June 14 whereas the first day was specified for the people of Miranshah, North Waziristan Agency. However, eyewitnesses said that hundreds of tribesmen from North Waziristan had thronged the registration centre since early in the morning and waited for their turn in the scorching heat for hours. "I reached here before 7.00am but failed to register myself as the security personnel were pushing away the people from the main gates all the time," said Rafiqullah, who had settled his family in Charsadda. He said that he had also gone to Bannu to get himself and his family registered as IDP but he was told there that he would be registered at the Peshawar centre. Like Rafiqullah hundreds of families had left their hometowns in North Waziristan prior to the military operation and shifted to Peshawar and other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The FDMA has established registration centre in Peshawar for these people but majority of these people went back without registering their names on the first day of registration, accusing mismanagement and misbehavior on the part of officials. However, the FDMA director general said that there were eight registration desks inside the College building and they had registered hundreds of people on the first day.

**The News – July 08, 2014**

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## **Tide of IDPs Swells Past 750,000**

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from North Waziristan Agency soared past 750,000– the day when 13 suspected terrorists were killed in a fresh air raid in an area believed to be a stronghold of foreign militants, particularly Uzbeks. More than seven terrorist sanctuaries were flattened in the predawn raid as warplanes streaked across the area, according to the media arm of the military, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). Foreign fighters were among those killed, it added. 400 suspected terrorists have been killed in Operation Zarb-e-Azb that was launched on June 15. The fresh air strikes in Degan area came on the heels of a visit by army Chief General Raheel Sharif to North Waziristan where he called for eliminating all terrorists without any discrimination and made it clear that security forces would hunt down militants across the country. Commenting on the ground-offensive, which commenced on June 30, a military official termed it a 'daunting task' as security forces carry out door-to-door searches and clear the area of insurgents. The official added that the operation was the last major battle against terrorists.

## **Operation to be Completed in Two Weeks**

The military has not given any timeframe for the completion of the Waziristan operation. However, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Governor Sardar Mehtab Abbasi said that it would take another two weeks to clear the regions of militants. Once the operation is completed, the government

will review the situation and the displaced families will be repatriated following a clearance from the security agencies, he told the media after meeting a tribal jirga from North Waziristan at the Governor House in Peshawar. The jirga comprised tribal elders, including the descendent of Faqir of Ipi, Maulana Sher Muhammad. The government fully realizes that the Waziristan tribesmen are facing a human tragedy; he said but assured the jirga that the federal and provincial governments were working in coordination to provide maximum relief to the IDPs. Governor Mehtab said that he has directed the political agent of North Waziristan to set up an office in Bannu to personally supervise relief efforts in the districts.

### **Number of IDPs Reaches 751,986**

North Waziristan has emptied out since the launch of the operation. According to the state-run APP news agency, around 751,986 IDPs have been registered so far. It, however, added that final figures would be available after verification from the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra). Mostly, these IDPs have been seeking shelter in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa districts of Bannu, DI Khan, Lakki Marwat, Karak and Hangu, while an estimated 7% of them have travelled to other parts of the country. The government says that around 575 individuals entered Kurram Agency via the Afghan province of Khost. Similarly, an estimated 9,440 individuals from Kohat district have migrated to other districts of K-P and Punjab. Additionally, around 2,791 IDPs have arrived in Karak district, and 772 families have reached Hangu district via Kurran Bridge Thall. Of these, 402 families have migrated to other districts while 370 families have been accommodated in district Hangu. The federal government has allotted Rs300 million for relief efforts in Bannu. The prime minister has also approved the release of Rs500 million to the FDMA and is likely to transfer a second tranche of Rs500 million. It has announced that Rs. 343,392 million was distributed among 28,616 families till July 5.

Additionally, 17,846 SIMs have been distributed among the IDPs to facilitate financial payments, of which 15,716 SIMs have been activated. The government has said that it has adequate resources to provide for the IDPs and doesn't need to appeal to international aid agencies to step in. Speaking with the BBC Urdu, Minister for States and Frontier Regions Lt. Gen (retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch said the government had not prepared for the influx of IDPs as it was "seriously pursuing dialogue with the militants". If the government had made preparations for receiving displaced persons earlier, its intentions would be called to question, said Baloch, who has been tasked by the prime minister to look after the IDPs issue. Baloch rejected claims that the IDPs have faced problems in the provision of relief goods, saying the army's 45 Engineering Brigade is assisting in relief efforts. The brigade played an important role in relief work following the Swat operation in 2009 and has experience in rehabilitative work, he added. "There is no limit to the government's budget for relief work."

**The Express Tribune - July 09, 2014**

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### **KP Government Ready To Cut Down ADP For Welfare Of IDPs Of NWA: CM**

Chief Minister Pervez Khattak has said that his government was ready to cut down the annual development Programme to utilize it for the welfare of the displaced tribal people from North Waziristan Agency due to military operation there. Addressing the North Waziristan Qaumi Jirga at KP Assembly, he said he and his party leader Imran Khan had met the Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif day earlier to discuss the problems being faced by the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and have got assurances accordingly. The jirga members thanked Pervez Khattak for giving shelter to millions of IDPs from FATA and endeavoring for best stay arrangements for them as well as apprised claim of their certain problems. The Chief Minister after listening to the demands of the jirga said they could feel the pain of the displaced people from North Waziristan where the military launched an all out operation three weeks ago to dismantle the terror infrastructure. The operation forced over 800,000 people to flee the area

and take shelter in nearly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, mainly in Bannu. "We understand how difficult it is to leave one's home in this scorching heat and all our sympathies are with you," Pervez Khattak told the tribesmen. "We are ready to shut down the ADP but will not let you have any problem or feeling alone at his time of odd," he said. The provincial government's ADP for fiscal year 2014-15 is Rs.139.9 billion.

The Chief Minister said his government's commitment could be judged from the fact that several cabinet members had come to meet the jirga in order to learn about their problems. He said he had undertaken four visits to Bannu after the start of the displacement, adding, Imran Khan has directed him to make sure not even a child was left out of proper care so the IDPs had to be hosted nicely to the maximum extent. He said Speaker Asad Qaiser had been asked by Imran Khan to coordinate relief efforts among the federal and provincial government and the army. He said the health minister Shahram Khan Tarakai would visit Bannu to review the healthcare facilities for IDPs. "I felt like crying when visited a children hospital where children were in agony due to the heat at the time of load-shedding," Pervez Khattak said. He said pak army would soon allow the NGOs to carry out relief work. "Army has to control everything and is not allowing NGOs to work due to security reason, it has even denied access to the Imran Khan Foundation," he added. On a demand of the Jirga that the monthly cash in aid should be increased to Rs.50,000, the Chief Minister said they would take up the issue with the federal government.

Speaker Asad Qaiser said displacement was a common tragedy. He said they were the guests of the provincial government and would not let them feel that they were away from home. Earlier, a representative of the Jirga, Rahmatullah Khan, presented a list of demands. In one of the demands the jirga asked the Chief Minister to use his offices to ensure that burial of their dead were allowed in their ancestral graveyards in North Waziristan, Pervez Khattak said he was not in a position to materialize that demand but the provincial government would purchase a graveyard for them in Bannu. Rahimatullah, on behalf of the jirga, asked the chief minister to extend the process of registration for a month. Pervez Khattak promised to talk to the Corps Commander Peshawar about it.

Daily Times - July 11, 2014

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### **IDPs Woes: Few Doctors Willing To Volunteer for Relief Work**

The Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) effort to sign on doctors and paramedics, and collect medicines for internally displaced persons (IDP) has elicited a cold response from medical practitioners and pharmaceutical companies. The PIMS administration set up a command and control centre ten days back to address poor health conditions and a massive shortage of health professionals for IDPs in Bannu. Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto University Vice Chancellor Prof Javed Akram said they set up the centre to register volunteer doctors, nurses and paramedics both from private and public hospitals to work in Bannu. "Sadly, the centre has not received enough volunteers willing to serve in Bannu," he said. Dr Akram said there was no pre-existing healthcare infrastructure for IDPs in Bannu. "The number of IDPs has crossed 800,000 and there are only 17 doctors available at Bannu District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital," he said. Pims has dispatched a 62-member team comprising gynecologists, pediatricians, general physicians, surgeons, nurses, paramedics and ancillary staff to Bannu.

PIMS has also approached Polyclinic and the National Institute of Rehabilitative Medicine (NIRM) to register staffers willing to work in Bannu. "So far, 12 nurses from Polyclinic have signed up. It is a positive sign but it doesn't fulfill the need," said Akram, adding that the PIMS team in Bannu has carried out 39 deliveries including c-sections so far. "There is a huge shortage of medicine at Bannu DHQ, but so far, very few pharmaceutical companies have joined hands with Pims to help alleviate the crisis." "We fear that the poor response will lead to the closure of our centre and the health facilities we are providing in Bannu," he said. PIMS's

coordinator Dr Asfandyar Khan, who is working at the PIMS camp in Bannu DHQ, told that DHQ hospital is overburdened and short of medicine. He said a large number of displaced women are facing various kinds of gynecological issues but there is only one gynecologist at DHQ to deal with them.

“One of the major challenges is that women are often unwilling to be checked by [qualified] male doctors,” said Khan. PIMS has sent five gynecologists to Bannu, but even nurses are being forced to deal with gynecological cases to lessen the burden. He added that the IDP camp is at a great distance from DHQ and there is a need for a more reliable method of transporting patients to and from the camp. Khan said most of the displaced women are severely anemic, malnourished and have complications during delivery. Moreover, there is an outbreak of gastroenteritis among children and many are suffering from skin disease, scabies, chest infections and heat-stroke, while “a few” measles cases have also been detected. The PIMS coordinator said they treated 1,200 patients and carried out five major surgeries during the last five days. “We are trying to move our [two] mobile hospitals closer to the IDP camp so that the displaced population have quicker access to healthcare services,” he said.

**The Express Tribune - July 11, 2014**

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### **Over 375,000 IDP Children Vaccinated**

Over 375,000 children displaced by the military operation in North Waziristan have been administered anti-polio vaccine at different transit points. About 800,000 people have moved out of North Waziristan and taken shelter in camps set up in Bannu. A large number of IDPs are also living with their relatives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh. An official at the Prime Minister’s Monitoring and Coordination Cell for Polio said there were nine permanent transit points and IDPs had to pass through these while going to settled areas. “Vaccination teams have been deputed at all points and they are administering polio vaccine to every child. Boys and girls of up to 15 years of age are also being administered polio vaccine,” he said. Till July 6 as many as 200,000 polio doses were given to children below five years of age, 95,000 doses to children aged between five and 10 years and 81,000 doses to children over 10 years of age. The official said that 165,000 children had been administered polio vaccine at the FR Bannu transit point, 62,000 at Hangu, 34,000 at D.I. Khan, 27,000 at Tank, 13,000 at Lakki Marwat, 32,000 at Bannu, 31,000 at Kohat, 12,000 at Kark and 5,000 children at Kurram transit point. Dr Altaf Bosan, technical head of the PM’s polio cell, told Dawn that it had been decided that every child would be administered polio vaccine at the transit points. “Vaccines are available and we are taking the operation as a blessing because if all children of Waziristan get vaccine, polio will be eliminated from the country,” he said. It may be mentioned that the anti-polio campaign could not be launched in the volatile tribal region over the past over two years.

**Dawn - July 11, 2014**

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### **UN To Help Generate Aid for NWA IDPs**

Ambassador Elizabeth Jones, Principal Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, US Department of State, on Friday said that the United States will work with the UN and the international community to mobilize funds and aid for IDPs. The Ambassador said this during a meeting with Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar. She also said that we would cooperate with Pakistan for development of the areas of operation in order to resettle the IDPs back to their lands. During the course of the meeting, federal minister informed the Ambassador about the status of Internally Displaced Persons from North Waziristan Agency (NWA) and the assistance, Government of Pakistan is providing to the IDPs. He said that around Rs.8 billion have been provided by the Federal Government so far and all efforts will be made to facilitate the IDPs during the operation and their rehabilitation later. He also mentioned about

cooperation on Kuram Tangi Dam which will be helpful for provision of water to the people of Waziristan. The minister also acknowledged and appreciated the US support on the Dasu Hydropower Project at the World Bank meeting. Ambassador Elizabeth Jones, Principal Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, US Department of State mentioned that as per desire of both the countries education, science and technology, higher education, technical training have been added as another subject/area in the strategic dialogue between the two countries. She informed that the US is looking forward to hosting International Investment Conference on Diamer Basha Dam in Washington DC at the time of autumn meetings of the World Bank and IMF when there is abundance of Banking and Investment sector presence.

**Daily Times - July 12, 2014**

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### **Helping Hands: Plan Made To Provide Cash Assistance to IDPs**

Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said all-out help would be provided to the people displaced as a result of a military operation against terrorists in North Waziristan. "We stand by internally displaced persons (IDPs) in their hour of need," the chief minister told a meeting that reviewed arrangements made to provide relief to IDPs. He said the government had decided to provide cash assistance to IDPs and a plan had been finalized in that regard. The chief minister approved the launch of a "vigorous" fund-raising campaign with the help of overseas Pakistanis, industrialists, traders and chambers of commerce and industry. The chief minister also formed a committee, headed by Punjab Assembly member Manshaullah Butt, to contact overseas Pakistanis for fundraising. He said the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for IDPs had been set up and the government had contributed Rs500 million to the fund. He said assembly members from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz had donated a month's salary for the fund. The chief minister urged philanthropists to contribute generously to the fund. He said every donated penny would reach the deserving people. "Helping IDPs is our national, religious and moral obligation," he said. Sharif said the provincial government had sent 70 truckloads of relief items for IDPs.

National Assembly member Hamza Shahbaz said initially Rs. 1 billion would be raised in donation from across the Punjab. Separately, Education Minister Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan reiterated the government's resolve to address the issue of terrorism and focus on the rehabilitation of IDPs. He was speaking at a ceremony at Alhamra Arts Council to mark the formation of the Shahbaz Sharif Volunteer Force for IDPs. Khan said the participants of Punjab Youth Festival would join the force. They would be tasked with raising funds for the campaign. Four charity cricket matches, featuring the national cricket team, are planned fundraisers. These matches will take place in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan and Faisalabad. He said the volunteer force would also organize a walk to collect funds for the IDPs on August 14. Khan said though the government gave militants the option of holding talks, the way they proceeded showed that an operation was inevitable. "Our attempts at peace talks were not taken seriously," he said, "This is a defining moment for Pakistan. It has become a question of survival."

The education minister commended the education sector for responding to the chief minister's call for donations for IDPs. He said that terrorist groups had been using the IDPs as a human shield. "While the government wants to remove all terrorists, it also wants to support and rehabilitate all civilians affected in the course of the military operation." Several educational institutions and departments under the Ministry for Education donated Rs. 110 million for the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for Internally Displaced Persons at the ceremony.

**The Express Tribune - July 12, 2014**

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### **Bannu Registration: Over 1,000 IDPs Caught Using Fake CNICs**

Authorities have rounded up as many as 1,100 internally displaced persons for producing fake Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) during registration in Bannu. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Friday, focal person of the ministry of states and frontier region, Tariq Hayat Khan, confirmed that 1,100 people were caught using fake CNICs during the registration process and had been handed over to the department concerned for interrogation. He stated that the registration of IDPs was still under way and so far 0.7 million people had been registered in the camps. Tariq refuted allegations made by the Afghan authorities claiming that Pakistan was letting IDPs enter Afghanistan. "Why would we push our refugees to Afghanistan when we've played host to millions of Afghan refugees over the years?" he questioned, adding that a few families might have tried to cross the permeable border. The focal person also dispelled the impression that authorities had not allowed NGOs to work for the IDPs saying that many international organizations as well as local charities including the UN and Bahria Town were assisting the IDPs. Briefing the media about the ongoing relief operation he said that besides registration, the authorities had also launched a Rapid Need Assessment process to ascertain that urgent needs of the IDPs are met.

"After this exercise, we will further take steps to meet their other requirements", Tariq said. Giving details of the displaced persons he said that so far more than 85,000 families consisting of over 950,000 individuals have been displaced and moved to adjoining districts but predominantly Bannu, where more than 80 per cent of IDPs have been temporarily settled. He pointed out that around 100 kilogrammes of food baskets were distributed among each family along with a cash amount of Rs. 12,000 which will be distributed each month to meet their daily expenses. Besides the monthly expenditure every family will be given Rs. 20,000 each as Eid allowance. Additionally, the Punjab government has announced a monthly subsistence allowance of Rs. 7,000 for each IDP family. The K-P government has announced Rs. 3,000 as accommodation allowance per month and Rs. 5,000 (one time) as relief assistance. The government has also released seven thousand metric tons of wheat to the WFO to meet the dietary needs of the displaced persons. Regarding the health facilities available, Tariq said that the FDMA had deployed four mobile hospitals along with doctors in the camps. Around 85,000 children have been inoculated for polio virus and around 83 doctors and paramedics have been attached to Bannu by Fata secretariat.

**The Express Tribune - July 19, 2014**

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### **NADRA Revelation: Nearly Half of All IDP Family Heads Undocumented**

In a surprising revelation that could potentially trigger a new controversy, the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) said on Friday that it couldn't verify over 33,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from North Waziristan Agency who have registered themselves as family heads. Authorities have registered nearly a million IDPs since the Pakistan Army launched a massive air and ground offensive against terrorists in North Waziristan – one of the seven tribal regions on the border with Afghanistan. These IDPs were registered through 78,083 people who claimed to be heads of their families. NADRA started verifying the authenticity of their claims, and surprisingly its database could verify 44,770 family heads. The authority said it doesn't have records of 33,313 family heads. According to the procedure, the head of a family comes to the registration counters to get his family registered as IDP. Only after registration, they are provided government aid for their families. "NADRA officials briefed the authority's chairman on the registration of IDPs at different locations. He was told that NADRA has checked the data of 78,083 family heads given by the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA). Of this, 44,770 have been verified and 33,313 could not be verified by the NADRA database," said a statement issued by NADRA. The NADRA chairman, Muhammad Imtiaz Tajwar, visited Bannu on Friday to personally see the relief activities and registration process put in

place for the Waziristan IDPs. A NADRA official told that the government has decided to set up a 'grievance cell' under the FDMA to resolve the issue of unverified family heads. There are reports that several people have registered themselves multiple times to get maximum aid. Similarly, there are also reports that multiple family members registered themselves as head of one family. There are others who either do not have CNICs or who obtained cards from NADRA when it did not keep records of a family tree.

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### **1 Million IDPs and Counting**

As the number of IDPs crosses the staggering one-million mark, Minister for States and Frontier Regions (Safron) Lt Gen (ret'd) Abdul Qadir Baloch admitted that the government has failed to mobilize the public to facilitate and support the influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs). "I accept this as my failure," he said, while addressing a press conference. He later clarified that he meant that the government has failed to mobilize the public as was done during the 2005 earthquake and the 2010 epic flood, but this does not mean the government lacks resources. Baloch - who has been made the focal person by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to handle the issue of IDPs - cautioned that the figure would rise between 2 and 2.2 million in the coming days due to the possible expansion of the military operation. The rehabilitation and safe return of these people would be a big challenge for the government, he solemnly added. It is time to mobilize the entire nation because the military operation would extend to other cities of the country, including Karachi, so that terrorism can be eradicated from the country.

"We want to restore the country's status as the 'safe haven of investment'," he said, adding that terrorism has caused the economy to crumble and reduced investment to only a dream. Baloch cautioned the nation to prepare for a long war. "This war is longer than 1965 and 1971 because it has far-reaching implications," he said, adding that failure is not an option. He also said that Shawal was being cleared of militants and dismissing some media reports, he claimed, "No civilian casualties have been reported in the area." Answering a question, he said that 70% of foreign organizations have been granted no-objection certificates (NOCs) for relief work at IDP camps. When asked why the chief executive of the country chose to leave on a personal visit if the government was not successful in mobilizing the public, Baloch said Nawaz Sharif flew to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah and he was in the country while and after Operation Zarb-e-Azb was launched on June 15.

### **Official Paints a Sanguine Picture**

On a more positive note, Kohat's General Officer Commanding (GOC) Maj-Gen Akhtar Jamil Rao assured that peace will be restored and the North Waziristan IDPs will respectfully return to their homes. However, he refused to give a timeframe for the completion of the offensive. Talking to journalists in Bannu Fort, Maj-Gen Rao said 126,08 tons of ration has been distributed among the IDPs so far, which would last them for three months. He promised that the security forces would do everything possible to facilitate the IDPs. He said that around 500 families settled in schools will be transferred to the IDP camps where they will be provided all possible facilities, adding that each camp will be a model camp. He also said that after militants are eradicated from the North Waziristan Agency, hospitals and colleges will be built. The GOC added that all civilian and government officials will cooperate with the IDPs and will spend their Eid with them in Bannu.

### **Inter-Ministerial Meeting on IDPs**

Separately, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz chaired an inter-ministerial meeting to discuss the rehabilitation of the IDPs. The meeting was

attended by the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) secretary, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) chairman as well as representatives of the SAFRON Ministry and the Military Operations Directorate. The EAD secretary gave a presentation, outlining various options, based on previous instances of IDP influx. The SAFRON representative informed the meeting that the FATA Secretariat was already in the process of preparing a damage assessment report, on the basis of which needs assessment in terms of rehabilitation and reconstruction would be carried out.

**The Express Tribune - July 23, 2014**

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### **UN Agencies Agree To Provide Basic Facilities to IDPs**

The United Nations agencies and its partners will assume a bigger role in days ahead to cater to the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) of North Waziristan Agency, sources said. They said that the UN agencies had agreed in principle to provide basic facilities to the newly arrived IDPs if international norms and guidelines were followed. Under these norms, rights of IDPs will be protected. Right to personal safety, food, shelter, education and access to work offers vital protection during such displacements. The government has agreed to expand the scope of humanitarian agencies to IDPs. In this regard, a meeting of the stakeholders was held in Peshawar which was presided over by Chief Secretary Amjad Ali Khan. Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) director general Tahir Orakzai was appointed focal person of the coordination committee. Officials said that approximately 500,000 IDPs from North Waziristan Agency had settled in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and now PDMA with the assistance of UN agencies would look after the displaced people.

### **PDMA to Look After Displaced People with UN Agencies' Assistance**

The Fata Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) said that the number of IDPs had reduced from one million to 500,000 after verification by the National Database and Registration Authority. Tribal people had fled homes after the Pakistan Army launched operation against militants in North Waziristan Agency on June 18. Civil Secretariat, Fata, has put staff of the line departments in North Waziristan, including education and health, at the disposal of the administration of the IDPs hosting districts, particularly in Bannu. The Bannu district having one million people has been overburdened with the arrival of the huge influx of IDPs. An official source said that the UN agencies and its partners would intervene to provide assistance in health, education, drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition. He said that the government could not fulfill needs and requirements of the IDPs without engaging the UN bodies. "Malnutrition among children is a major issue and the UN has the capacity and resources to fulfill nutrition requirements of children, especially new born babies," the official said.

### **Gastro, Respiratory Diseases Rising Among IDPs in Bannu**

The government, he said, would also provide access to partners of the UN, including international and national NGOs, to work in the IDPs hosting areas. The federal and provincial governments were adamant to seek help from the UN, international and national NGOs. Initially, only the World Food Programme was invited to start relief activities. Later, the Federal Ministry of State and Frontier Region formally requested the UN coordinator in Islamabad to help IDPs. The officials said that the plan about establishing two new camps for IDPs was dropped following a survey report which revealed that majority of the displaced families had refused to stay in tents. The chief secretary had directed the relevant authorities to seek opinion of IDPs residing in government schools over whether they wanted to stay in camp or in rented houses. They said that over 90 per cent of IDPs had decided to vacate schools and to be shifted to rented houses before end of the summer vacations. Schools are scheduled to open on Sept 1. The government has decided to pay Rs. 12,000 per household for renting house and fulfilling other

requirements. The officials said that camp in Frontier Region Bakakhel, adjacent to North Waziristan Agency, was intact and IDPs who could not afford the cost would be settled there.

Dawn - July 27, 2014

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### **Denial of IDPs' Payout Contract to BISP Creates Huge Mess**

Some 400,000 families registered with the government as internally displaced persons from North Waziristan won't have enough to celebrate on Eid-ul-Fitr. Some things have gone so wrong that Bannu district resembles some sort of a Hyde Park, where frustration transforms into mini protests, audible even to an indifferent ear. Contrary to initial perception of Zarb-e-Azb to be a meticulously planned multifaceted operation, the execution obviously has left a lot to be desired. Anguish and dismay that dominates feeling of sacrifice and service amongst the IDPs largely stems from the government's decision to award cash distribution to a semi-government commercial bank and a Chinese-owned cellular company without any competitive bidding and technical evaluation. While the privileged commercial bank, which has virtually no branch in the district, along with the cellular service operator have been too slow to respond, the entire city has been transformed into a massive transit camp where confusion battles the official claims.

Though the government has boasted to have disbursed Rs 1.42 billion amongst the IDPs, there are few takers for the tall claim. Led by the FATA Secretariat in KPK Governor House, the operation of disbursing money to the Waziristan residents has been mishandled from the very outset. However, the government has been too lousy to admit the shortcomings, if not failure. Meanwhile, the FATA Disaster Management Authority wants the nation to believe that over Rs 195 million were disbursed among the IDPs on Thursday alone. The official media claims that 39,000 families have received financial assistance, thus far. The federal government represented by the KPK Governor failed to recognize the mammoth success Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has been. Working strictly under the World Bank guidelines, the BISP evolved procedures in sync with local needs and time constraints both. "The government has been trying to reinvent the wheel again here, just for the heck of it. Since BISP is a legacy of the Zardari era, the rulers did not want IDPs payout under the existing facility," explains an insider at the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

"The project must have been handed to the BISP which could have delivered swiftly relying on its smart card that comes with NADRA's state-of-the-art technical support," said a source in the finance ministry. Requesting anonymity, he said the donor community has been far from satisfied with the state of affairs concerning cash handout process. An official in the telecom sector noted that three cellular companies also dealing in money transfer across the country have their own State Bank-licensed institutions coupled with a wide network of cash outlets. "In case of the Chinese company, not only it does not have its own bank but also has marginal market share in the particular region of the KPK province," he explained. Three years ago, the same telecom company did not even participate in the bidding process for the BISP. The sheer on-ground reality remains that the banks prime partner lacks cash outlets in the IDP encatchment area. "Due to shortage of outlets, the existing centres are swarmed with people and only 20 per cent IDPs can be entertained," says a local official. The dismal cash out situation, then, prompts harsh exchange of word and protests. On the other hand, the other cellular operators complain of simply handing over 400,000 customers to a company that had 4 per cent share of the region.

Moreover, the locals confirm that free SIMs are being distributed and the same operator has set up public call centres to maximize its economic benefits. Enhancement of cash distribution system has not been a priority since the contract was dished out the party. According to a conservative estimate, the Chinese company alone may reap benefits worth Rs 1.2 billion in SIM revenue over a period of time. However, roll out of 400,000 SIMs won't make the company a

market leader anyway. The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the NADRA officials have been struggling for the last 15 days to fix the mess but no success reported so far. Even the PTA chairman and NADRA acting head had visited the district to ascertain the situation first hand. Interestingly, the contract award to the commercial bank and the cellular company remain closely guarded by the either sides. With the extended Eid holiday season ahead, there are increased fears of protests in Bannu district over lack of cash disbursement and poor living conditions of the IDPs.

**Daily Times - July 28, 2014**

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