



## United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

**Dir Lower Mission Report**

(By OCHA)

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2009**Mission:**

Mr. Hussain Ullah – UNOCHA

Mr. Abbass Khan – UNHCR

Mr. Rudy Juanito – UNDSS

**Meetings:**

Mr. Ghulam Muhammad – DCO Dir Lower

Mr. Mumtaz Zarin – DPO / SSP

Mr. Baradar Jan – APG

Mr. Aftab Alam – EDO Education

Mr. Shafiq Ur Rahman – EDO Agriculture

Mr. Jamil Ahmad – EDO Works and Services

Mr. Sultan Room – District Officer Social Welfare

Mr. Taj Ali Khan – DDO PHE

Mr. Jehan Zeb – ADO PHED

Mr. Shoukat Ali – EDO Finance and Planning

Mr. Walayat Said – UNICEF (funded position)

Mr. Irfan Ullah – Site Engineer Pak CDP

Mr. Abdur Rahman – Representative of IDPs

And a few local community elders

**Field Visits:**

- Walay Kandow – New camp site
- Government Commerce College Walay Kandow – IDPs camp

**Lower Dir at a glance:**

The district of Lower Dir borders the districts of Bajaur, Upper Dir, Swat and Malakand (PA). Population estimated at 1 million, Lower Dir has 7 Tehsil (two sub division)

The district Head Quarters is in Blambat (Temergara)

Main sources of income of the area are remittances from laboring in Middle Eastern countries, agriculture, livestock, SMEs, handicrafts and transport.

**Background and Purpose of mission to Dir Lower:**

Clusters were requested by the provincial government in the Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August to provide assistance to IDPs and establish a camps in Lower Dir. With a view to the immediate humanitarian needs in the area and responding to the government request, OCHA in partnership with sister agencies visited the District to assess and evaluate the ongoing humanitarian relief operations, current humanitarian situation and needs in Lower Dir. OCHA was accompanied by UNHCR and UNDSS to monitor the work progress on the new IDP camp sites and carry out a review of site assessment and asses the security situation.

### **Return to Lower Dir and situation on ground:**

So far approximately 75,000 families have returned to their places of origin in Dir, however there are an unknown but reasonable number of IDPs who belong to Maidan area have returned back but are not able to reach their place of origin due to ongoing instability and are staying with host families in safer places in lower areas of Dir.



Currently the situation is conducive for return in about 30 Union Councils of Lower Dir while the remaining four union councils have ongoing operations and in another three operations are anticipated to start soon. All markets are open, traffic is flowing, roads are clear, district government officials have resumed their duties, all government offices, hospitals are functional in the district except Maidan Tehsil and supplies are flowing into the area. The military has handed over the district affairs to the district administration and civil authorities and police visibly operational. To avoid any risk or security incident all missions are advised by the District Police Officer not to move without police escort.



### **Overview of the humanitarian situation and needs:**

Due to hostilities on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in Maidan Tehsile ( Zamdara, Gal, Lal Qqila, Beshgran, Haya Serai, Lojbok and Kotkay Union Councils) and lower parts of the district including Auch, Chakdara and Talash which caused thousands of families to be displaced from and within the district some of whom entered camps established within the district to cater for the previous displaced caseload from Bajaur. The DCO informed the mission that the total population of Tehsil Maidan is about 250,000 out of which 150,000 are displaced to safer areas and about 100,000 are still staying within the conflict areas. The DCO further informed the mission that UC Ausband,



Khanpur, Tazagram, Kotigram, Auch, Chakdara were also badly affected during initial operations, and most of the people moved from these areas to down districts. He also communicated that now people are returning to safer places in Lower Dir, however they do not encourage IDPs who originate from the Maidan area to return as the area has not been cleared. He said that they have received reports that there are some returnees to Maidan who are now coming back and being accommodated by the host communities in Lower Dir.



### Registration and Cash Grant:

Registration of the local IDPs living in spontaneous camps or with host families has not been done by the Social Welfare Department in Dir, only IDPs who are living in the camps listed below are registered by the Commissioner Afghan Refugee and the registration data has been provided to CAR office Peshawar for further submission to the concerned authority. IDPs in camps have not received the Rs. 25,000 cash grant (Visa debt card). According to the DCO the district government had conducted a survey through revenue staff to estimate the number of people displaced within the district, according to which there are 150,000 IDPs living in host families, rented homes, organized camps, spontaneous settlements and school buildings. The survey / registration report and camp registration data has been provided to the provincial government with a request to register the out of camp IDPs through social welfare department and provide them with immediate relief and Rs. 25,000 cash grant but response is still awaited.

### Camps:

There are eight IDPs camps in Lower Dir camp wise details are follow

S. No	Name of Camp / Institute	No of Families	No. of individual
01	Commerce College Walay Kandaw	426	2608
02	Government Girls Degree College Timergera	553	3782
03	GHSS Samarbagh	480	3167
04	Sadbar Kalay	535	3005
05	Gov't. Polity Technical Institute Timergara	286	1915
06	Elementary College Temergara	202	1249
07	Khungi	224	1271
08	Sado	107	613
<b>Total</b>		<b>2813</b>	<b>17610</b>

The mission visited Commerce College Walay Kandaw where they met with IDP community elders from Maidan. They informed that they have been registered with the government but so far they have not received Rs. 25,000 cash grant. The IDPs told that they do not have much information about their belongings and place of origin. There are



concerns that homes have been looted or destroyed during the operation. Now all the IDPs living in Walay Kandaw belong to different UCs of Maidan. They further informed that they have lost their standing crops, livestock have been slaughtered, orchards are destroyed and infrastructures are damaged. They informed that all routes to their places of origin (Gumbatay, Kamar, Barghando etc.) are closed due to the military operation in Maidan and they are not able to get the information regarding their relatives who are still within the

conflict areas. ICRC is providing food and UNICEF through Project Support Unit is providing education services. SSD is the UNICEF implementing partner providing

WASH services in the camp. SSD informed that there is no water source nears by in the area however they are providing 30-33 litres per day per head through water tankering (from 6 KM distance) in the camp, however due to hot weather IDPs are complaining about the shortage of water. The following are a few main problems at IDPs camp Walay Kandaw, IDPs highlighted in their discussion with the mission.

- Rs. 25,000 cash grant (Visa debt card) has not been given to IDPs living in camp
- Proper health services are not available in the camp
- No cooking places are available, they are cooking their food in open places and wood for cooking is not available
- There is no electricity in the camp
- There is a water shortage

**Governance and communication:** As per the Works and Services department report, 203 KM roads, three bridges, 20 culverts are damaged during the operation in Dir. District government/line departments are not able to assess the damages and losses in Tehsil Maidan as the operation is still going on and the Tehsil Head Quarter is not accessible, however they assesses huge losses to government buildings and communication network in Dir. EDO Works and Services informed the meeting that one police station and one scout headquarter have been damaged out of the Maidan area.

**Health:** EDO health said that they do not have access to the Maidan area, so are not able to assess the health situation and damage there, however they have carried out a damage assessment according to which only RHC Gul Abad and RHC Ausband are damaged during the operation. All the health facilities have the capacity only for local population and can't cater to the needs of the additional 150,000 displaced populations. Health department has provided ambulance services to the camps but department do not have funds for fuel and maintenance for mobile vehicles. EDO Health informed that ICRC is providing health services in Degree College Temergara, MSF is in Samarbagh camp, UNFPA is in providing Mother and Neonatal Child Health (MNCH) services in Sadbar Kalay, WHO has provided emergency kits to District Head Quarter hospital in Temergara.

**Education:** There are total 1,500 schools in the district out of which 250 are occupied by the IDPs, most of the furniture of these schools were burnt for cooking purposes by the IDPs. Schools in the Maidan area are not accessible for any assessment. EDO informed that IDPs from Bajaur during their stay from October last year till April 2009 in Dir have damaged schools and have taken away all the furniture and other material. There are reports from indirect sources that 49 schools are damaged / destroyed in Maidan Tehsile EDO further informed that schools are opened from 1<sup>st</sup> August but due to IDPs presence, 250 schools are closed. He said that schools should be vacated so student can continue their education. He informed that most of these schools have been damaged by the IDPs as these are being used as home/camps, so rehabilitation/repairing strategy need to be devised so once these schools are vacated it can be made available for classes after the immediate rehabilitation / repairing.

**Food:** District authorities informed that they have provided ERU's food package to 10 thousands families to out of camp IDPs. ICRC has made one time food distribution to out of camp families and twice (2<sup>nd</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> July) food have been provided in camps. DCO was not satisfied with food assistance for the IDPs, he requested that regular monthly food distribution is needed for out of camp IDPs, so their food needs can be met.

**WASH:** Public Health and Engineering Department estimates Rs. 6 millions losses to water supply schemes. As per their assessment in the previously affected areas 5 water supply schemes are damaged and further detailed damages assessment in the current conflict area will be carried out once the area is cleared and peace restored. There is water shortage to the IDPs and local people in the host communities as the existing water supply network coverage is not enough for the additional caseload. Due to voltage problem and shortage of electricity most of the tube wells are not functional at their full capacity. Restoration of tube wells and rehabilitation of water supply schemes are needed at the earliest.

**Livelihood and Agriculture:** Agriculture department estimates Rs. 687.64 millions losses to agriculture sector. Maize, rice, wheat are the main crops in the area. Livestock, handicraft, fruits, vegetables and forest are also source of income for the inhabitants. During the displacement most of the people have sold their animals at cheap rates, most of the livestock were left behind during the displacements which have been slaughtered. Standing crops were left behind which are destroyed, fertilizers are banned (as these are being used as an explosive materials). Irrigation channels are damaged, tube wells are damaged, and forestry sector has been badly affected due to no presence of forest department staff in the conflict areas. Line departments need funds or support for rehabilitation of the infrastructure, restoration of tube wells, reconstruction/rehabilitation and restoration of damaged livestock dispensaries, irrigation channels, irrigation water storages and open wells.

#### **New camp sites:**

The mission was informed by the DCO that the following three camps sites have been selected by UNHCR, ICRC and MSF which will be established soon and IDPs from schools building will be relocated to new camps.

1. Walay Kandaw – UN
2. Khungi Shah – ICRC
3. Munda – MSF

**Visit of Walay Kandaw camp site:** Mission visited the new camp site at Walay Kandaw along with UNICEF WatSan focal person in Dir and Pak CDP site engineer.

*GPS coordinates of camp site: N: 34. 48. 22*

*E: 71. 48. 03*



The new camp will have the capacity to accommodate 700 families. The new camp site is not ready for camp establishment and not plan, it is a sandy and rocky mixed fields, with stone walls at every five meters and camps are scattered across the road. There are no water sources is available near by, UNICEF is providing water through water tankering to the near by camp, so their WatSan focal person mentioned that he will recommend for water tankering to this new camp as well. UNHCR

technical team has visited the site and has started leveling of the land through Pak CDP, according to Pak CDP the ground for pitching the tents will be ready till the end of next week.

#### **Conclusion:**

- All UN missions going to Dir have to change police escorts at seven different police station / locations from each sides, the escort chain/system is not efficient

and wastes a lot of time. This issue should be taken up with relevant authorities and all missions should be coordinated to avoid individual movement.

- The new camp site was visited only by UNHCR technical team and other agencies have not visited the site, it is recommended that any new camp sites may be jointly visited by response agencies so all aspect can be assessed and feasibility can be checked by relevant sectors.
- An inter agency joint office may be established at Blambat / Temergara after a detailed security assessment and approval from UNDSS.
- Humanitarian Hub may be established at Temergara for provision of food assistance to out of camp IDPs with close coordination of local authorities and ICRC and new camp at Walay Kandaw after security assessment and approval from DSS.
- Registration of in-district IDPs and cash grant issue may be taken up with government at high level
- Any possible relief assistance for those who are staying inside the conflict areas should be discussed with military authorities.
- Some other suitable camps sites are available in Temergara and Talash which can be discussed with authorities and a security assessment may be carried out by UNDSS
- Schools Rehabilitation Strategy needs to be devised

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