

Initial Observation Report

Focusing on off-camp Internally Displaced People from Bara Tehsil in Khyber Agency, FATA, Pakistan

District Peshawar, Pakistan

Introduction:

This Initial Observation conducted by Save the Children reveals the situation of 45 off-camp Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) communities from Khyber Agency at District Peshawar in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan. 2,157 families (approx. 16,500 people) were assessed in total.

Key Findings:

Food Security:

- 56% respondents stated they have food stocks for 1 – 3 days only.
- 40% of respondents reported that they have not received any food assistance.
- 82% women key informants from off-camp IDP communities reported decrease in frequency of breastfeeding after displacement.
- Even registered IDPs face difficulties in accessing food support because of lack of knowledge about the exact schedule of food distribution at Jalozai camp and the high cost of transporting food from jalozai camp.

Sources of Drinking Water:

- 55.6 percent are dependent on dug well for drinking water.
- Respondents shared that drinking water obtained from public water supply schemes is insufficient while water from underground sources carries the risk of water born diseases.

Availability of Non-Food Items:

- 87% of respondents have no appropriate utensils for cooking and eating such as stoves, pots, dishes and cups.
- 53% of respondents shared the lack of containers to hold 10-20 liters of water.
- 58% of IDP communities have not been provided or promised any kind of assistance regarding non-food items.

Access to Health Care Services:

- Only 4.4% of respondents shared that people are receiving sufficient medical care.
- 30% of respondents travel more than 16 kilometers to access the nearest health facility.
- 96% of respondents accessing health facilities are not receiving subsidized or free medicines.
- 48.8 percent communities reported diarrhea as a common disease in children.

Main Sources of Income:

- 96% of respondents shared that their main source of income has been completely or badly destroyed due to conflict and displacement.
- After displacement, the average income of IDP communities has been reduced from PKR 10,000 – 16,000 to PKR 1,000 to 4,000 per month.
- The e only available income generation opportunity to most off-camp IDPs is daily wage labour, which they are given far below the normal market wages.
- 82.2 percent do not possess any livestock, while only 17.8 percent reported possession and rearing of livestock.

Education:

- 56% of respondents shared that IDP families do not have their children enrolled in schools.
- 29% of respondents confirmed the need for informal education centers.

Protection Issues:

- From the assessed 45 off-camp IDP communities, 67 orphaned children were identified.
- 67% of mothers reported undesirable change in the children's behavior after displacement.
- 76% of respondents have no safe playing area for children

Disaster Risk Reduction:

- 91 percent of respondents quoted instances when emergency referral support for child birth and serious health issues was required but it was unavailable.
- 84% respondents were not aware of the hazards of their host locations.
- 96% of IDP communities, there was no early warning or social service system in place, either by the Government or Non-Government Organizations.

Recommendations:

- Issues of registration faced by IDPS should be highlighted.
- Need to launch food aid and NFIs distribution at host communities since the influx of IDPs have overburdened registration and distribution point at Jalojai camp.
- Comprehensive beneficiary identification and tracking strategies should be adopted to reach the most vulnerable.
- Distribution of women and child hygiene kits and there's a need to improve health and hygiene behaviors through awareness raising activities in the displaced population.
- Agencies should pay greater attention and prioritize provision of clean drinking water in order to avoid the proliferation of communicable and water borne diseases.
- Urgent need to provide livelihoods support to the displaced population such as cash grants, in order to help displaced communities meet their basic livelihood needs.
- There is a need to initiate mobile clinics and strengthening available health facilities.
- There is a need to initiate food aid programmes to the displaced population on a priority basis.
- Transitional learning facilities should be established to provide an opportunity for children to continue their education as majority of schools do not enroll children unless they possess proper school leaving certificates while private schools remain unaffordable for IDPs. There should be advocacy with the KP Department of Education to allow the enrollment of IDP children even without the possession of school transfer certificates.
- As it was observed that children do not have spaces available for recreational activities, mobile or static Child Friendly Spaces should be established to provide means of recreation for children at host location. This would greatly help minimize psychosocial issues amongst displaced children.