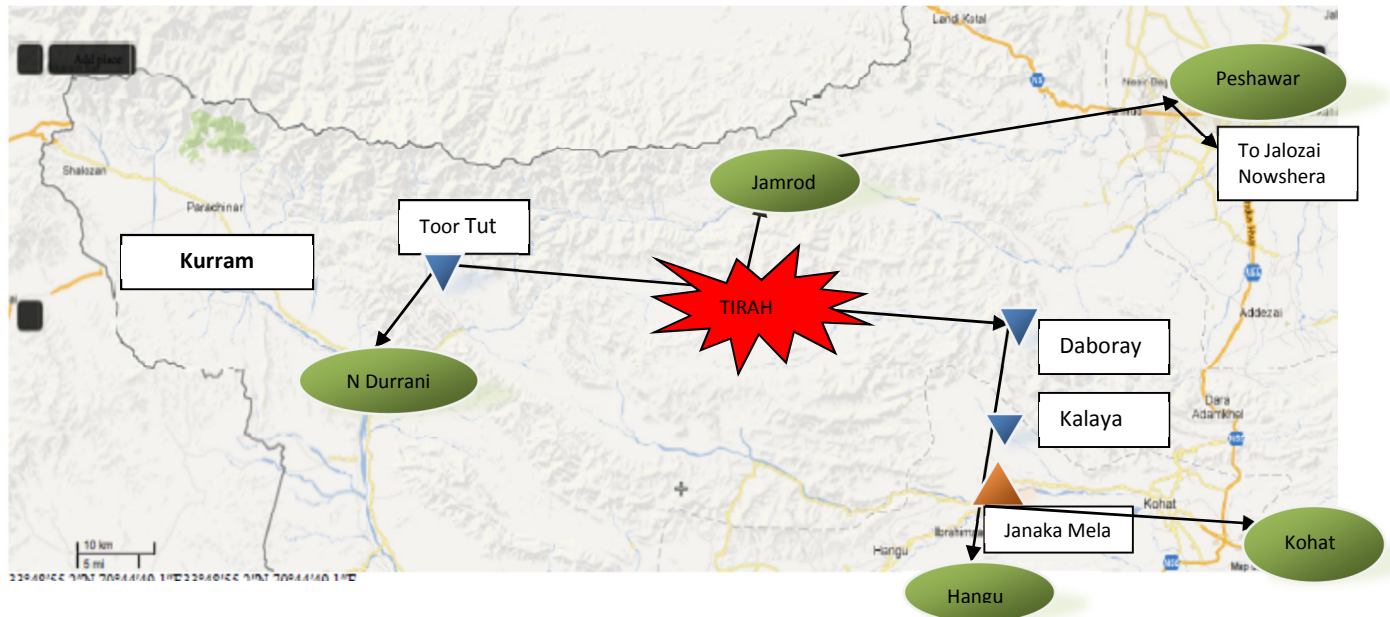




Protection Cluster Briefing Note – Displacement from Tirah Valley, Khyber Agency



The purpose of this document is to provide a brief, non-comprehensive summary of protection concerns and overall trends related to the recent displacement from the Tirah Valley (Khyber Agency). The document was compiled from information reported by Protection Cluster members, UN Agencies, NGOs, and Government (PDMA/FDMA). Please note that not all data has been re-verified.

I. Background / General Situation:

In the context of an upsurge of violence since January 2013 in the Tirah Valley, a new wave of fresh displacement from the Bagh Maidan area in the Tirah Valley (Khyber Agency) initiated in mid-March 2013. The displacement was the direct result of heavy clashes between the Lashkar el-Islam backed TTP and the pro-government Insar el-Islam. The hostilities caused a sudden displacement of the population along various routes and directions: to the West towards Kurram Agency, to the North towards other tehsils of the Khyber Agency (Jamrod), to Peshawar / Nowshera, including Jalozi Camp, and South and South-West through Orakzai and towards Hangu and Kohat.

Informed by the authorities (PDMA/FDMA), the humanitarian community mobilized a response taking into consideration the circumstances, the security concerns, and the basic information gathered on the profile and pattern of displacement. With the support of several INGOs, IVAP is attempting to provide better mapping of the displacement, including by providing further insight on the areas of major concentration of the IDPs to allow for delivery of an agreed immediate assistance package (1 month food ration and NFI package).

Security of the displaced population, of the host communities, and of humanitarian workers, especially after the 20th March blast in Jalozi Camp, has been a principal concern of all

stakeholders. Government, UN, NGOs, and all other service-providers have been committed and ready to provide protection and assistance, including registration, from the onset of the displacement, but have jointly insisted that the shared security concerns must be fully addressed in order to ensure the safety of all during the process. Towards this objective, humanitarian organizations have requested upgraded security in camps as well as designation by the authorities of off-site registration areas in secured areas. At the time of writing substantial progress has been made towards upgrading security in the camps, however designation by the authorities of secured off-camp registration sites is still pending and remains a priority.

II. Displacement Trends:

On the 15th of March 2013, the Government made official notification declaring 98 villages of Bagh Maiden as conflict-affected areas. On the 29th of March FDMA communicated that there may be as many as 42,937 individuals / 5,479 families displaced, of which 46% are children. Reportedly the figures are the results of headcounts of convoys passing through specific points on roads and in a transit center opened by the Government on the way to Hangu (Janaka Mela).

Most people walked by foot from the Tirah Valley to Orakzai, from where those who could afford it took public transport. However, reports indicate that not everybody was allowed to leave Tirah Valley. Two routes - Tirah to Sadda in Kurram Agency and Tirah to Bara in Khyber Agency - were blocked, which is why many people walked toward Shalobar town with the aim to reach Kohat via the Orakzai Agency route.

The security situation in Jalojai Camp since the blast on 20th March caused some families to move off-camp. As a result, families were seen moving out of Jalojai to live with their relatives or rent cheap houses in Peshawar and Nowshera districts (originally 268 families were listed in Jalojai Camp during a door to door survey on the 18th of March, however on the 31st of March only 100 families were present for registration originating from the Tirah Valley).

Coordinated by IVAP, a group of NGOs (NRC, Save the Children, ACF, IRC, ACTED, and Oxfam) collected observations on displaced persons from Tirah Valley in areas of Peshawar, Hangu, Kohat, and Nowshera districts as well as the Kurram tribal area in order to determine the locations and needs of the recently displaced population. Findings reported (mainly through focus groups) include the following:

- Some children, women, and elderly died during the displacement process and couldn't be buried properly.
- Some women gave birth along the way.
- Children got sick and injured because of bad weather conditions.
- Many children were misplaced and are still missing.
- Women and children were especially affected and uncomfortable, walking at night in rain and cold weather.
- Many of those with disabilities, especially with mobility difficulties, were left without support in the areas of origin.
- Some people were captured and beheaded or shot by militants.

III. Intentions

- It was originally expected that the majority of the population might come to Peshawar as off-camp IDPs, however they report that they are in transition and

awaiting better information in order to decide their next destination on the basis of availability of services and assistance.

- Some traditional local leaders are allegedly discouraging people from registering so they will be able to return to the Tirah valley as soon as possible.
- Reportedly high levels of destruction in areas of origin may result in prolonged displacement and probable challenges in the return process.
- Families displaced off-camp report residing in rented accommodation, with 4-5 families per house in order to save on costs.

IV. Security Concerns

The newly displaced population has a specific profile – highly undocumented, with security concerns.

- It is observed that a disproportionate number of the new arrivals have no CNIC, which may delay the registration process as well as the provision of humanitarian assistance. They may also face bureaucratic barriers in processing their requests for documentation since NADRA may be especially busy with the upcoming elections.
- Although additional security measures have been put in place following the bomb incident in Jalozai Camp, some IDPs in Jalozai claim to receive threats from militant groups, pushing them to return to Maidan and other villages.
- Following the Jalozai incident some families have opted to reside off-camp for safety reasons, however there is less access to humanitarian assistance off-camp.
- Police harassment on the basis of origin was reported in Peshawar, Nowshera, and Kohat, including arbitrary arrest, bribery, and sexual harassment (Kohat).

V. Assistance

- Due to the rapidity of the displacement most IDPs are fleeing with few or no belongings, therefore required assistance is broad – including NFIs, food, protection, WASH, health, and shelter.
- Many persons report leaving behind everything, including livestock, money, and legal documentation.
- In order to fulfill immediate needs, one month emergency assistance (food and NFIs) are being provided to displaced families prior to registration while screening filters in the UNHCR/WFP database are put in place in order to provide mitigation measures against inclusion errors.

VI. Specific Concerns of Women

- Reports have been received of Police officials harassing women IDPs, specifically in Kohat.
- Two allegations of rape were reported in Kohat, allegedly committed by house-owners renting space to displaced families.
- Women and children have reported high levels of health problems resulting from the displacement process, flight from their homes, and walking several days to reach their destinations.
- Supplementary nutrition is required for pregnant and lactating women.
- Hygiene kits are required for women.

- UNFPA indicates that GBV Health Services are being provided by the Family Planning Association of Pakistan (FPAP) in Peshawar, Nowshera, Kohat, Mardan and Haripur. Anyone can contact the MSS Helpline at 080022333.

VII. Specific Concerns of Children

- Some children are arriving with injuries, including from falling while fleeing down from the mountains.
- There are children who became separated from their families and are still missing.
- Many children are requiring supplementary and therapeutic feeding.
- Children are in danger of missing their annual school exams due to their displacement.

VIII. Specific Concerns of Elderly

- IDPs in Kohat reported that several elderly persons and pregnant women died due to the lack of assistance and the long walk from Tirah Valley through rough, mountainous road.
- Others have reported elderly dying along the way due to harsh conditions and exhaustion.

IX. Specific Concerns of Persons with Disabilities

- Reports have been received that people with disabilities, especially those with mobility difficulties, are sometimes being left behind in the places of origin. In one widely reported case, family members shot a disabled woman upon her request rather than leaving her behind to face ill-treatment by militants.
- Many displaced persons report mental suffering, including insomnia, as a result of the traumatic displacement.
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X. Recommendations

- **Registration:** All efforts should be made to facilitate the registration process. Potential opportunities include mobile registration for IDPs in Kohat, Hangu, Peshawar, and Nowshera.
- **Grievance desks:** In order to serve the needs of those displaced off-camp mobile grievance desks should be considered to help strengthen protection monitoring, facilitate access to civil-documentation (especially NOCs), and support vulnerable persons to access registration and assistance.
- **Access to information:** An information campaign should be conducted for off-camp population to enable IDPs to receive timely and needed information, as well as to access rights mechanisms.
- **Shelter:** Off-camp IDPs should be supported to access shelter solutions without dependence on negative coping mechanisms.
- **Psychosocial support** should be provided in response to the trauma and stress created by displacement.
- **Education:** Special measures should be taken to ensure that displaced children are able to sit for their annual academic examinations.
- **CNIC:** NADRA, Government, and humanitarian organizations should mobilize to ensure legal-documentation for displaced persons, especially through mobile CNIC services.

- **Transportation:** Those in need, especially the most vulnerable (disabled, pregnant, elderly, children), should receive assistance in transport to secure areas.
- **Assessment:** OCHA should facilitate a multi-cluster assessment of situation and needs.
- **Family tracing** services should be activated for separated children.
- **GBV** survivors should be facilitated to access medical, psychosocial, and legal services, according to their wishes.
- **Harassment and exploitation:** Advocacy should be undertaken with the Police Commissioner to ensure a stop to harassment and exploitation, including that allegedly committed by police and other security personnel.

END

Peshawar/ Islamabad 5th April 2013