

Background

The Humanitarian Coordinator and Inter-Agency mission visited Swat on 24th August 2009. The mission recommended establishment of humanitarian coordination in Swat District. In light of the discussion with Chief Secretary of the Provincial Government, the mission requested OCHA to start District Coordination meetings in Malakand.

Mission Composition

1. Fawad Hussain - OCHA – Coordination
2. Hussain Ullah - OCHA – Coordination
3. Elmigdad Abdalla – WFP – Food and Logistics
4. Inam Ullah Khan -UNICEF – Health, Nutrition and Education
5. Changaiz Mata – ul – Hussain – UNHCR – Protection, CCCM and Shelter/NFI

District Coordination Meeting

First Swat District Coordination Meeting (DCM) was held in Continental Hotel Mingora, Swat District. The meeting was initially organized at the DCO office but due to exceptional turn out of aid workers venue of the meeting was changed to Continental Hotel Mingora. 150 participants attended the meeting representing 60 humanitarian organizations. The meeting was co-chaired by DCO and OCHA. Pakistan Army provided security briefing to the forum. All government line departments also attended the meeting.

Large number of media also attended the meeting however after a quick press briefing by DCO, media left the meeting.

Organizations introduced themselves and updated on the ongoing projects and shared future plans and funding information. DCO appreciated OCHA's initiative and highlighted lack of coordination in the district. The meeting also highlighted needs for district based coordination mechanism since many NGOs have not acquired NOC (No Objection Certificate) from PDMA and are working without the knowledge of district government. DCO emphasized on the need for acquiring an NOC before starting project at the district level.

OCHA gave a briefing on coordination structures and also highlighted its role and products in the meeting including need to implement 3W at the district level. Participants including district government have requested sectoral coordination at the district level since there is a need for more technical coordination and a lot of dispute resolution on project allocations. OCHA was requested to establish their presence in Swat as a priority.

The DCO announced appointment of government sectoral focal points and referred the issues to them. OCHA was requested to circulate government focal point list to all participants. The DCO suggested holding District Coordination Meeting bi weekly and requested OCHA to initiate sectoral meeting at the district level especially for WASH, Health and Shelter and NFIs.

The DCO also requested a door to door housing damage survey for specific UCs through Shelter Cluster.



It was recommended in the meeting to house all humanitarian offices in preferably one compound for security considerations. Prefabricated containers should be introduced along with data communication and telecommunication services.

DCO also requested restoration of heritage sites which are damaged during the conflict within Swat District.

Pakistan Army Civil Military Cell Swat has been appointed as District Security Focal point and announced Swat conducive for humanitarian operation where 90 percent of the area can be accessed and cleared by military.

OCHA collected 3W information during the meeting and proceedings were minuted.

District focal points

Letter no.874/DCO dated 14th September 2009 received at OCHA Islamabad from DCO Swat.

S.No	Sector	Name of the official	Designation	Contact
1	Education	Mr. Fazal Ahad	ADO Elementary and Secondary Education	03449779990
2	Health and Nutrition	Dr. Bakht Jamal	EDO Health	03339075661
3	WASH	Mr. Ishrat Ali	Dy. District Officer Water Supply and Sanitation	03005905979
4	Shelter and NFIs	Mr. Sultanat Khan	DOR Swat	0946 - 9240341
5	Food and Agriculture / Misc	1. Manzar Javed 2. Naeem Akhtar	ACO Swat HRDO Officer	0946 - 9240324 0946 -9240470 0300 8305424

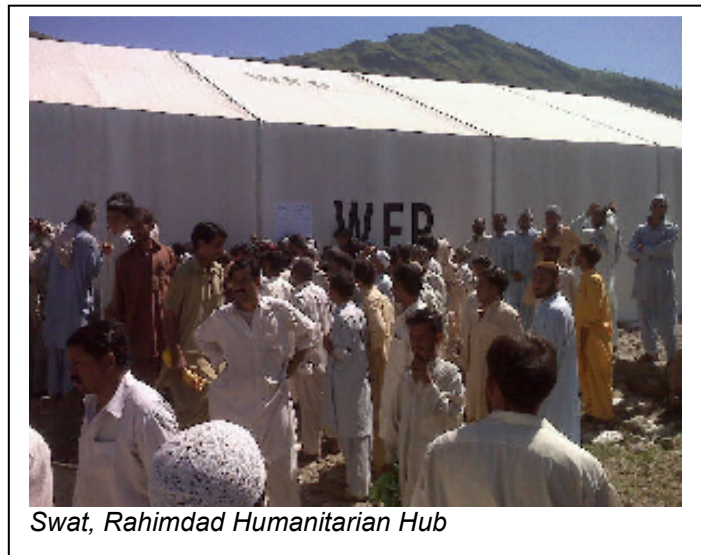
Visit to the Humanitarian Hub

The mission visited two Humanitarian Hubs (Rahimabad and Tandodog) during the visit to Swat District.

Food distribution is continuing in 25 Union Councils out of which 21 are covered by WFP food distributions and four union councils are covered by Anatolian Development Foundation.

UNHCR NFI distribution has also started through the Humanitarian Hubs. SRSP was seen distributing NFI to all registered IDPs who have not received their packages in hosting districts.

Mainly distribution through humanitarian hub has been appreciated by the local population; however there is need for more aggressive information campaign of distribution plan. Formal communication is taking place however there is a



Swat, Rahimdad Humanitarian Hub



need to explore informal means. People gathered to collect humanitarian aid, complained that they have been standing in the queue all day and now they have found out that they are at the wrong humanitarian hub or they require original national identity cards. There might be large majority of population that cannot read and write. There is a requirement to establish help information desks or use loud speakers to disseminate information to people standing in queues in Urdu and Pashto. Distribution plan can be seen at the humanitarian hubs, however they are not disseminated widely at the village level. There is need to extend communication at the village level.

At the time of the visit it was observed that there was no female staff or separate areas for women to collect aid. However it has been reported that separate counters have been established. There is a requirement to establish waiting areas in the Humanitarian Hubs and after Ramadan provision of clean drinking water.

It is also observed that Humanitarian Hubs still remain to be used by UN agencies and not used by other humanitarian partners working in the area.

Recommendations

Coordination

1. Since new coordination structure is being proposed to the humanitarian country team (HCT) and district coordination meeting (DCM), there is a need to consider emerging need and government drive to establish sector based coordination mechanism at the district level. It is also recommended that cluster appoint focal points at the district level for the coordination along with the government.
2. Sectoral focal points have been established by the Swat District Coordination Officer which indicates some structure being finalized at the district level. Currently government has five sector focal points nominated: Education, WASH, Health and Nutrition, Shelter and NFI and Food/Agriculture. There is a need to appoint cluster focal points for the affected districts.
3. OCHA is establishing presence in Swat and Buner after reaching agreement with district government.

Clusters

1. Health and WASH cluster have already established cluster meetings at the Swat level. Sectoral focal points from the clusters need to be established at the district level.
2. IOM as focal point for communications is recommended to further extend cluster based messaging and also involve cluster members in common messaging. Clusters are recommended to concentrate on common programmatic communication jointly with IOM.