

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) – Weekly Updates (July 27, 2009)

Repatriation of IDPs

CUMULATIVE RETURN DATA

Date	Returned to Swat (Personal+Govt. Transport)	IDPs Returned to Buner (Personal+Govt. Transport)	IDPs Returned to Dir	Total
13-Jul-09	585	80		665
14-Jul-09	612	295		907
15-Jul-09	1818	1067		2885
16-Jul-09	3421	1081		4502
17-Jul-09	8787	902		9689
18-Jul-09	8719	584	121	9424
19-Jul-09	11060	655	-	11715
20-Jul-09	5936	625		6561
21-Jul-09	6902	463	30	7395
22-Jul-09	4629	555	22	5206
24-Jul-09	4606	710	4	5320
25-Jul-09	7034	548	-	7582
Total	64109	7565	177	71851

Source – ERU/PRC (www.helpidp.org)

About 1 Million to Remain Displaced till Year-End: UNICEF

The UN Children’s Fund said on July 22 that about half of an estimated two million people who fled fighting in Swat and FATA could remain displaced for the rest of the year. A senior UNICEF official said it was essential to provide adequate security in their home regions and ensure that displaced children were able to return to school in September. UNICEF Emergency Office Director Louis-Georges Arsenault said that “everybody is hoping that people come back to their village as soon as possible. But at the same time we also believe... it would be prudent to assume let’s say that by September one million could have gone back and that we would still have one million displaced through the year”. Mr Arsenault, who carried out a joint mission to Pakistan recently, also underlined concerns about ongoing disruption to children’s schooling. About one million children were at risk of not starting the school year, he added, blaming it on the destruction of schools in the Swat valley —especially girls schools — a shortage of facilities for the displaced or the fact that some 4,000 schools were needed as shelter for those who fled.

Two Camps for IDPs in Mardan Closed

The NWFP government announced, on July 20, that two major relief camps were closed after over 60,000 displaced families had voluntarily returned to Swat and Buner. Information Minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain said at a press conference after a meeting of the provincial cabinet that the Sheikh Shehzad and Sheikh Yaseen camps in Mardan, the district which hosted the highest number of displaced people, had been closed because most of the inmates had left for their homes. He said the camps in Jalala and Mazdoorabad were also likely to be vacated in a few days.

Muslim Aid Aman Camp for IDPs in Swabi Closed

Muslim Aid Country Director, Khobaib A Vahedy has said that the Aman camp, which was established by Muslim Aid in Swabi district, had been closed as all the 327 families had left for their homes safely. He said that Muslim Aid Aman camp hosted displaced people from Swat, Dir and Buner. The return of IDPs from Aman camp was

completed in four phases and for this purpose Muslim Aid provided additional transportation facility to the returning families with the government support. Vahedy said that after the relief phase the recovery and rehabilitation of affected people is more crucial. He said Muslim Aid would continue its efforts with commitment and dedication so that the displaced people could start normal life. He added that Muslim Aid prime objective would be to help people in their rehabilitation and we had chalked out a plan for the recovery of returning families in the affected areas of Swat, Dir and Buner. Vahedy thanked the local philanthropists and foreign donor agencies i.e. UNICEF, GlobalMedic Canada, Muslim Aid Australia, Qatar Charity, Human Relief Foundation, Rotary Club and Qidwai Welfare Trust for their timely support and collaboration with Muslim Aid in providing relief to the IDPs, adding the strong cooperation between the NGOs and government would mitigate the sufferings of the IDPs.

Remaining IDPs Shifted to Jalala Camp

The NWFP government has shifted the remaining IDPs of Mardan to Jalala Camp owing to the closure of three camps in Mardan. The government has so far closed relief camps of Sheikh Yasin, Sheikh Shahzad and Mazdoorabad in the district. Jalala Camp Assistant Coordination Officer (ACO) told that the IDPs, whose areas were not yet cleared of the Taliban, were shifted to the camp. He said the government had also started shifting IDPs from Swabi relief camps to the camp. He said over 150 families from Swabi district had been accommodated at the camp. The IDPs living in schools, with relatives and at rented houses in Mardan were also returning to their houses. A majority of IDPs living off camps have returned on their own.

IDPs in Sindh to Start Return from 30th'

Sindh Home Minister Dr Zulfiqar Mirza announced on July 25 that the IDPs from the restive Swat valley and other places in the country's north would start returning to their native areas from July 30. He said this after presiding over a meeting held at the Sindh Home Department to discuss arrangements made for the return of the IDPs. A number of families had arrived in Sindh from the troubled areas of the country and most of them were living in different areas of Karachi. According to the Home Minister, around 70,000 IDPs had registered themselves here and the government has made arrangements for the return of around 1,200 people as part of the first phase. They would leave for their native areas by a convoy of 20 to 25 buses on July 30, he added. The government would bear the expenses for their transportation. Mirza said that the provincial government would also give Rs 25,000 to each family, besides other facilities. He said that the government would provide complete security to them on their return. He said that the government would also make arrangements for the return of the people who had not registered themselves here. He advised them to register themselves at the government's registrations centres established at Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur.

Reconstruction Phase

Swat Reconstruction will take Three Years: ERU

An official said on July 21 that two international financial institutions – the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank – were involved in the validation and verification process of damages and needs assessment in Swat and other Malakand districts where the army has been battling the Taliban, and estimated that the reconstruction process would be completed in three years. Shakil Qadir Khan, a member of the government's Emergency Response Unit, told that the two financial institutions' involvement will help speed up the process to estimate the exact cost of damages and needs. Authorities put the cost of reconstruction and rehabilitation in Swat at \$2.5 billion dollars, but that figure was described as a "very initial estimate" and the amount could increase when the final assessment report comes out. The ERU official said that the \$2.5 billion figure is a very initial estimate. Actual figures will only be available when the final report comes out. The ERU official said the report, to be approved by the WB and the ADB, would be shared with donor countries and agencies. "The verification and validation by the two financial institutions would leave nothing to doubt about the exact level of damages and needs." Shakil said the reconstruction and rehabilitation of affected areas would be completed in three years if the required money were made available in time.

Around 100 Federal Schools would be reopened Soon in Swat & Malakand

Chairperson National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) Ms Nafisa Shah said that equal focus would be made on boys and girls to have access to education. She said that the NCHD had devised a system of dropout prevention, which hinged upon private-public partnership, the teacher and community volunteers. This system is running quite successfully, she added. She said that the NCHD took an active part in facilitating IDPs at camps and would continue to assist them during the rehabilitation phase, especially in the fields of education and health. She said that the NCHD kept on educating hundreds of displaced children at its transitional schools at different IDPs camps. The teachers deputed in these schools were trained in trauma counseling to help children keep aside their problems and worries.

Fiscal Requirements/Needs for Support of IDPs

UN Appeals to Donors to Honour Pledges for IDP Aid

The United Nations on July 23 appealed to the international community to honour its pledges for assistance in the rehabilitation of the IDPs, as only 43 percent of the required funds have been collected so far. Speaking at a press conference, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Emergency Coordinator Richard Muller said around 385,000 IDPs had returned home and 50 percent of the insurgency-hit areas had been cleared of terrorists. He said there was a dire need to pay attention to the revival of agriculture in the affected areas, as its restoration was a prerequisite for the long-term stability and economic recovery of the area. Muller said the locals had also suffered huge losses of livestock during the fight against the Taliban.

The UN Coordinator said humanitarian groups had requested the United States to extend \$38 million in aid to support water, sanitation and hygiene reforms in the area. Muller said the UNHCR had contingency stocks of plastic sheets to reinforce flooring and roofing for affected families during the monsoon season. He said a joint programme had been formulated for Buner in which UNDP, UNICEF, FAO and UNHABITAT, WFP, UNIDO and WHO were involved. Muller said the Conflict Early Recovery Initial Needs Assessment (CERINA) programme was underway in collaboration with the provincial government to analyse the needs of the affected populations in Swat, Buner, Swabi, Mardan and Bajaur. This assessment would conclude by the end of July and a report is expected in early August.

NWFP Seeks Rs 2.5 bn for Fresh IDPs

The NWFP government on July 23 demanded of the Federal Government to release cash grant of Rs 2.5 billion for over 100,000 newly-registered conflict-affected families in the province. Briefing journalists at the Civil Officers Mess here, NWFP Information Minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain said after one-day break, the return of the displaced families from the Malakand Division would resume today (July 24) while a makeshift camp would be set up in Mingora for the homeless people who belonged to the areas where security forces were still fighting the militants. He said that some displaced families had reached Mingora despite the fact their areas were not "cleared" by the government. The provincial government has also directed all the government and semi-government employees to ensure their presence on their duties in Swat, Buner, Shangla and Dir Lower districts. Of the 565 employees in Saidu Sharif Hospital, he said, some 335 had joined their duties while staff in health centres in Matta, Madian and Khawazakhela was insufficient where military doctors were serving at the moment. Likewise, Iftikhar said, some 24 medical centres out of 36 centres in Buner had been operational where some 80 per cent staff had joined their duties. He said that out of 452 Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) employees in Swat, 292 had still not reported for their duties. Some 30 per cent water supply schemes in Swat were yet to be made operational whereas an amount of Rs 35 million would be granted for restoration of these facilities.

US Needs to Enhance Fiscal Aid to Pakistan for IDPs

A U.S. official has said in Pakistan that in his report to the U.S. government he would not only suggest the continuous and uninterrupted financial assistance to Pakistan but would also recommend sufficient increase in it. After visiting the Jalozai camp of the IDPs in Peshawar, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration Eric Schwartz said that his government wants an early dignified and honorable return of the dislocated people to their native homes.

Responses

Government

Federal Government

Over 200,000 Cards Issued to IDPs: Over 200,000 UBL Wallet Visa Debit cards have been issued to the IDPs. An announcement to this effect was made in a statement issued on July 21. It said that since June 9, UBL Wallet VISA Debit Cards are being actively issued to the IDPs of Swat and Malakand Division for the disbursement of Rs.25,000 financial support allocated per family, by the Federal Government. So far more than 200,000 cards have been issued to IDP's in Jalozai, Akora Khattak, Chota Lahore, Gohati, Charsadda, Hasan Abdal, Mardan and Peshawar at special distribution sites, set up by the Special Support Group in collaboration with NADRA and UBL. The statement pointed out that these cards are issued on the basis of the IDP registration data provided by NADRA. At the time of issuance of these cards, biometric data and photographs are collected by NADRA for validation purposes. Based on the validation received from NADRA, which takes up to 48 hours, UBL activates the cards, so that IDPs can withdraw cash or make purchases, the statement added. It said that out of the 200,000 cards that have been distributed, 187,000 IDPs have so far availed the facility at UBL branches, ATMs and POS terminals, resulting in withdrawals of Rs.3.5 billion. Through this exercise UBL has welcomed over 250,000 new customers into its system that would certainly bring long-term benefits to the affected areas as well as the national economy.

Government Provides 50,000 tonnes of Wheat for IDPs: Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture Nazar Muhammad Gondal has informed that the Government has provided 50,000 tones of wheat to World Food Program and Special Support Group (SSG) to facilitate the IDPs.

International Community/Donors/INGOs

United States (US)

\$165m Additional US Aid Announced for IDPs: The United States, on July 22, announced \$165 million additional aid for humanitarian relief, early recovery and long-term reconstruction efforts for IDPs from Swat and neighbouring districts. At a joint press conference with Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Hina Rabbani Khar, US Special Envoy Richard Holbrooke hoped the pledged funds would help meet the changing needs of the displaced families in the country. US Assistant Secretary Eric Schwartz, who was also present, explained the utilisation of funds and said \$45 million would be used to support the locally-driven rehabilitation of basic infrastructure, including the water system, health facilities, schools and roads. He said \$30 million would be utilised for the development of small-scale infrastructure and community development grants for the IDPs in NWFP, adding that \$25 million would be used to give the IDPs resources needed to rebuild houses. This would be facilitated through community-driven, quick-impact cash-for-work programmes. This also includes programmes for rebuilding public buildings to facilitate the return of civil servants. He said \$23 million would be contributed to the UNHCR for humanitarian relief and \$20 million for rebuilding education infrastructure across Dir, Swat, and Buner. \$12 million will be contributed to the ICRC for its operations, especially for those who need to trace their family members, he said, adding that \$10 million would be used for immediate livelihood and agriculture programmes for the IDPs.

<p>PRCS/ICRC</p>	<p><i>PRCS to Provide Ration, Medicines to Returning Families:</i> The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) on July 22 chalked out a plan for the recovery and rehabilitation for displaced families now returning to their homes in Swat. The plan was discussed at a high-level meeting chaired by PRCS Chairman Prof. Dr. Basharat Jazbi at the PRCS headquarters and attended by PRCS Secretary General Muhammad Ilyas Khan, ICRC Head of Pakistan Delegation Pascal Cuttate, IFRC Acting Head of Pakistan Delegation Asar ul Haq, ICRC Corporation Delegate Teressit Biswas, PRCS provincial branch secretaries and others high officials. Dr Jazbi thanked the ICRC, the IFRC and other national societies for their timely support in providing relief to the IDPs. He stated that the recovery and rehabilitation phase is more crucial now, and we have to continue our efforts with greater commitment so that the displaced people resume their normal lives. The PRCS is providing one-month ration and medical facilities to returning families and will also reconstruct public infrastructure in the affected areas in due course of time. The organisation's rehabilitation plan has been prepared in keeping with the basic needs of the people of the affected areas. PRCS, in collaboration with ICRC and IFRC, has started providing relief to 350,000 IDPs living with host families besides 50,000 in tented villages. He said ICRC and PRCS will jointly work for the establishment of Basic Health Units, Mobile Health Units and provision of food items in the affected areas.</p>
<p>Norwegian Red Cross (NRC)</p>	<p><i>Norway Vows to Support PRCS in IDPs Rehabilitation:</i> Norwegian Red Cross (NRC) vowed to support PRCS in the rehabilitation of IDPs of Swat. The vow was made at a meeting between PRCS Chairman Professor Dr Basharat Jazbi and Norwegian Red Cross Secretary General Borge Brende at the PRCS National Headquarters here. The meeting was attended by PRCS Secretary General Muhammad Ilyas Khan and NRC representatives Mons Sydness and Christian Gahrne. Prof Dr Jazbi thanked the Norwegian government and the people for their timely support in the hours of need. Dr Jazbi also invited Norwegian Red Cross to support the PRCS in the reconstruction of public infrastructure in the affected areas. He appealed all the Scandinavian countries to support Pakistan in the rehabilitation of the displaced people. The Norwegian Red Cross Secretary General Borge Brende assured the PRCS Chairman of full support and pledged to join PRCS in the rehabilitation of the displaced people. He said that the government and people of Norway are with Pakistanis in the hour of need. He informed the Chairman that the Norwegian Red Cross has been supporting PRCS in the 2005 earthquake operation and during various natural disasters in the country.</p>
<p>CSOs/Private Sector</p>	
<p>Saviours Social Organisation (SSO)</p>	<p><i>SSO Supports IDPs:</i> The Saviours Social Organisation (SSO) organised an exhibition of handicrafts, paintings, clothes made by the people of Swat and Malakand division at the Alhamra Permanent Art Gallery, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. The SSO has been working for the IDPs for some time now and since rehabilitation had started, the organisation needed to bring them in the mainstream and wanted to display their skills and expertise. Families from Swat and Malakand had also participated in the exhibition.</p>
<p>Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE)</p>	<p><i>Karachi Stock Exchange Helping IDPs:</i> Continuing its tradition of Corporate Social Responsibility, the Karachi Stock Exchange has remained active at all stages of Relief and Rehabilitation of IDPs of Swat. Reiterating its commitment to the welfare of fellow citizens, Adnan Afridi MD KSE handed over donation cheques to Maulana Abdul Sattar Edhi and Red Crescent Society of Pakistan. Kanwar Waseem, Provincial Secretary, Red</p>

	<p>Crescent Society of Pakistan said that "this donation is particularly helpful since the repatriation of IDP's requires cash to be spent onG logistics and travel of IDPs' back to their homes and provision of basic amenities to restart their lives. We are very grateful to Karachi Stock Exchange for coming forward at this opportune time." Maulana Abdul Sattar Edhi said on receiving the cheque, "Edhi Foundation is appreciates entities like Karachi Stock Exchange that have voluntarily come forward with assistance throughout the IDP crisis.</p>
Media	
<p>Nawa-i-Waqt Group</p>	<p><i>108 Families Get Rs1.80m Cash from Nawa-i-Waqt Relief Fund:</i> Around 108 IDP{ families of Malakand division got Rs. 10,000 each as financial assistance from Nawa-i-Waqt relief fund. The bank drafts amounting to Rs 1.80 million were distributed among them during a ceremony. Addressing the ceremony, General Manager, Nawa-i-Waqt Group, MM Gurmanii said that EditorinChief Nawa-i-Waqt, Majid Nizami had established the relief fund for the efectees of the area with an amount of Rs5 million immediately after the launch of Rah-e-Rast Operation. He said that Rs.7 million worth food ration including wheat flour, sugar, tea, ghee, pulses and rice had been distributed so far among the IDPs.</p>