

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Government authorities and humanitarian partners are providing assistance to communities affected by chronic malnutrition and compounded by low rainfall, and lack of access to effective health services in Tharparkar District, Sindh Province.
- Families displaced from North Waziristan Agency are returning home following the de-escalation of the situation in the agency. A similar pattern of population movements occurred after the first wave of displacements in January.
- While over 1 million people remain displaced in the northwest, the FATA Disaster Management Authority estimates the return of over 45,000 families in 2014.



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## Relief activities continue in Tharparkar, Sindh

### People affected by a combination of drought, chronic malnutrition and lack of access to effective health services

According to Tharparkar district authorities, 99 children and 67 adults (43 men and 24 women) have reportedly died in Tharparkar since the beginning of 2014 due to a combination of chronic malnutrition, a lack of access to effective health facilities, lower than average rainfall in Chachro, Diplo, Khinser, Islamkot, Mithi tehsils (sub-districts), and an outbreak of sheep pox which has killed thousands of small animals.

Crop failure due to low rainfall, coupled with loss of small animals has greatly reduced the impoverished communities' purchasing power. Poverty is endemic in the sparsely populated district with acute malnutrition rates in children as high as 20 per cent, well above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent. The outbreak of sheep pox has aggravated the situation in Tharparkar, possibly having killed thousands of small animals, critical to household food security.

## FIGURES

Estimated IDPs in KP and FATA (UNHCR)	1 million
Expected returnees to FATA in 2014 (FDMA)	270,000
Estimated returnees to FATA since 2009 (FDMA)	1.4 million
Registered Afghan refugees (UNHCR)	1.6 million
Food insecure (National Nutrition Survey 2011)	58%

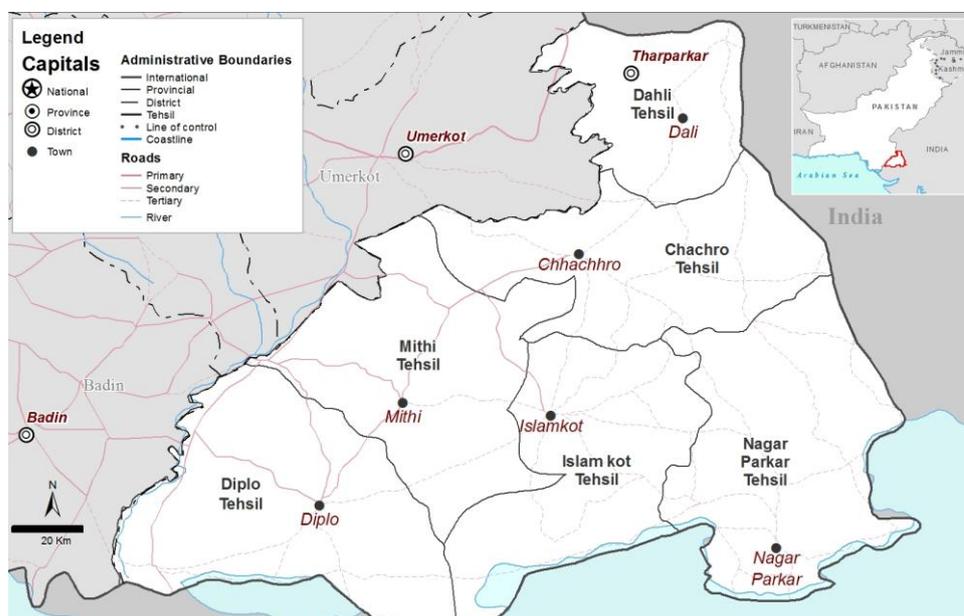
## 2014 FUNDING

**11.67m (US\$)**  
Estimated funds required for emergency response in Tharparkar

**282m (US\$)**  
Estimated funds required for humanitarian needs in KP and FATA in 2014.

**100m (US\$)**  
contributed to date

**55m (US\$)**  
Estimated funds required for North Waziristan Contingency Plan



Findings of an assessment conducted by the NGO HANDS show that 90 per cent of daily wages, 80 per cent related to agriculture and 70 per cent of the livestock related livelihoods have been lost. Although respondents reported that markets are open, nearly 76 per cent of the population do not have any food stocks available and 93 per cent said people are unable to buy what is available in the market due to lack of resources.



## Government and Partners step up humanitarian assistance in affected areas

Government authorities - from all over Pakistan - have distributed more than 15,000 tons of food items, including wheat, rice and food packs to families in need in Tharparkar, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The Livestock Department has vaccinated 2.2 million livestock in the last six months and seeks to vaccinate another 4.5 million animals. On 20 March, Khaled Al Othmani, Director of Saudi Relief Committees, announced the provision 23 tons of food for drought affected children of Sindh Province in collaboration with WFP and 2,000 food parcels for distribution to 7,800 children in one month in collaboration with government authorities.

*Humanitarian partners require \$11.67 million to provide emergency assistance in nutrition, food security, livestock and agriculture support for a period of one year.*

Authorities and humanitarian partners continue to provide medical supplies to support emergency health services at the Civil Hospital in Mithi, the district's capital, and through medical camps and mobile health teams across the drought-hit areas. Merlin and WFP have already established **Supplementary Feeding Programme**, and UNICEF 20 Outpatient Therapeutic Programme sites in 20 Union Councils of Taluka Diplo and Mithi. 32,552 (14 per cent of total population) children will be screened and 3,760 (6.6 per cent) expected severely acute malnourished children will be provided with treatment. WHO has provided 10 more beds to the stabilization centre in Tharparkar Hospital. WFP is planning a blanket supplementary feeding programme, which will cover 20,000 children and 40,000 pregnant and lactating women. Overall, the Nutrition Working Group in Tharparkar estimates \$11.67 million is needed to provide emergency and longer term assistance to over 1.3 million people for one year.

Private sector organizations are also providing relief items such as Nestlé, which has distributed 100 tons of water.

While these efforts may alleviate some immediate suffering the solution is to be found in sustainable development solutions tackling the root causes of chronic malnutrition in these areas.

## North Waziristan families returning home again

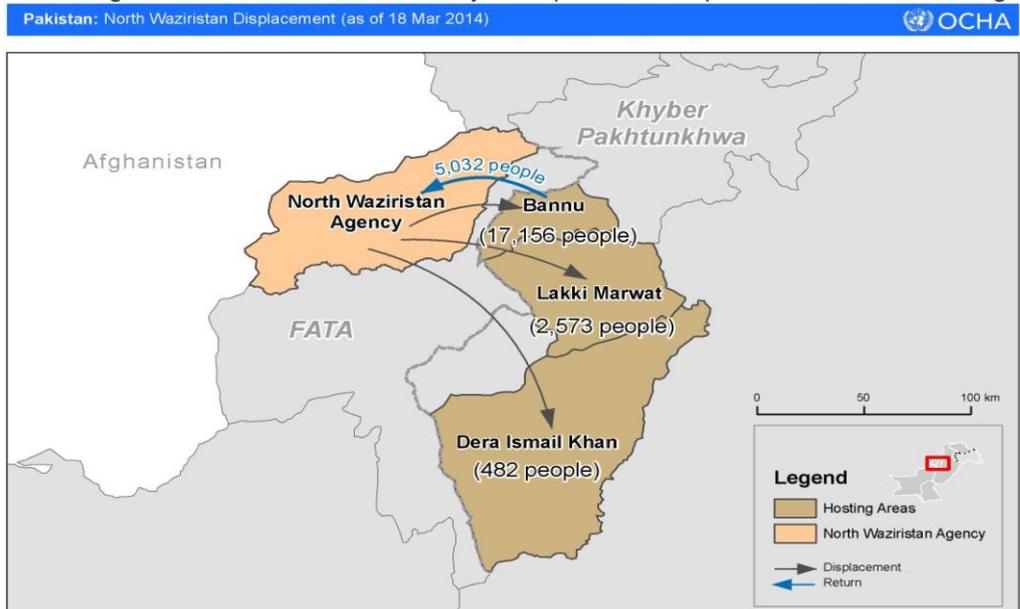
### Region hit by two waves of displacements in as many months

Families displaced from North Waziristan Agency (NWA) in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in February to Bannu, Lakki Marwat and Dera Ismail Khan districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) are returning home following the de-escalation of the situation in NWA.

Local authorities indicate approximately 5,000 of the estimated 25,000 people who fled their villages following aerial strikes targeting militants in February had returned as of 20 March 2014. More IDPs are expected to return in the coming days due to reduced security operations in NWA and the return of a sense of calm. A similar pattern of population movements occurred after the first wave of displacements in January.

According to assessments conducted by local partners, 82 per cent of the IDPs sought

*Although the affected areas have not been notified by the Government as calamity-hit, local humanitarian partners provided basic food, non-food items and health-care Services to displaced families in need.*



shelter in rented accommodation, 17 per cent among families and friends, and 1 per cent in community centres and schools, with a few families living in tents. Although the Government did not declare the affected areas as calamity-hit nor request humanitarian assistance, local humanitarian organizations provided basic food and non-food items to some of the IDPs, while the majority relied on donations and their own limited resources. On a positive note, health partners were able to vaccinate against polio more than 7,000 children under five years from NWA where local groups have banned vaccinations. The children were vaccinated at various transit points and hosting locations as they crossed into KP from NWA.

Humanitarian partners continue to monitor the situation in NWA and plan for an appropriate response in case further needs emerge. The fluid and unpredictable nature of the displacements and spontaneous returns complicate the planning process. If asked by the Government to provide assistance, humanitarian partners estimate that at least US\$55 million will be required to provide basic humanitarian assistance for six months in the event of a full-scale security operation in NWA.

*Families seeking to return to FATA need food, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection and livelihoods assistance to improve their economic situation and restore their communities.*

## Partners seek to support returns to FATA

### Government partners estimate up to 45,000 families may return home this year

Government authorities and humanitarian partners are working to develop a plan which will facilitate the return of families who wish to return to their homes in FATA and ensure the returns are safe, voluntary and well-informed. While the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) estimates that as many as 45,000 families (270,000 people) may wish to return this year, insecurity may not permit all those to return - in particular, the estimated 6,831 families to Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency and the 4,790 families hoping to return to Chapri Ferozkhel, A'Khel in Orakzai agency.

At the same time, approximately 1,500 of the 4,400 families who fled sectarian violence in 2011 in Kurram Agency have already spontaneously returned according to local authorities; the remaining 2,900 families are expected to start returning on 25 March. An ongoing Returns Intention Survey indicates 95.4 per cent of families surveyed by the Protection Cluster have expressed their willingness to return home. An inter-agency returns assessment conducted from 17-20 February confirms their priority needs are transportation support, food packages for 6 months, non-food items, transitional shelter, health care, drinking water and hygiene kits, nutrition and protection services. The same survey indicates 20 per cent of houses and most schools in the affected areas in Kurram are destroyed, as are basic health facilities.

Partners are conducting an awareness campaign in lower Kurram to inform the IDPs of the planned returns and the assistance to be provided, which will include transportation support, food assistance for six months, non-food items and hygiene kits. The Kurram returns are expected to last for 15 days, with about 500 families returning daily.

### Partners seek resources to maintain critical services in KP and FATA

Meanwhile, humanitarian partners continue to seek funds to maintain relief services to the one million IDPs unable to return. Without greater support, key organizations providing relief to the displaced people and returnees may halve food rations; primary health-care services will be interrupted; life-saving treatment for malnourished children, and pregnant and lactating women will be scaled back; and education for many children will cease.

Donors may channel funds either bilaterally through partners or through the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) to bridge humanitarian gaps in KP and FATA. The ERF is an in-country pooled fund instrument overseen by the Humanitarian Coordinator and managed by OCHA. It provides for rapid response in accordance with priorities determined by the humanitarian community and in particular by an Advisory Board comprised of donors, UN agencies and national and international NGOs, ensuring effective governance. Since 2010, the ERF has disbursed \$48.7 million for the implementation of 224 projects across Pakistan, including \$17.4 million for 82 projects in KP and FATA. Further information on ERF projects is available at:

<https://pak.humanitarianresponse.info/funding/emergency-response-fund-erf>

*Funds for relief to IDPs and returnees are due to run out as early as March, after which the continuation of critical humanitarian assistance may be at risk.*

For further information, please contact: [ochapakistan@un.org](mailto:ochapakistan@un.org)

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at: [pak.humanitarianresponse.info](http://pak.humanitarianresponse.info) | [www.unocha.org/pakistan](http://www.unocha.org/pakistan) | [www.reliefweb.int/country/pak](http://www.reliefweb.int/country/pak) | Facebook | Twitter