

HIGHLIGHTS

- Government authorities and humanitarian partners are facilitating the return of more than 46,000 displaced people to their villages in the Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency in FATA.
- Pakistan's drought affected south-eastern areas will receive below normal rain during 2014 monsoon season, according to Pakistan Met Office, which may further accentuate the situation in the region.

FIGURES

Estimated IDPs in KP and FATA (UNHCR)	1 million
Expected returnees to FATA in 2014 (FDMA)	270,000
Returnees to FATA since Nov 2013 (FDMA)	Over 100,000
Registered Afghan refugees (UNHCR)	1.6 million
Food insecure (National Nutrition Survey 2011)	58%

2014 FUNDING

Complex Emergency in KP and FATA

261m (US\$) Initially required

112m (US\$) Donated

149m (US\$) Still required

Malnutrition needs across Pakistan

35m (US\$) Initially required

4m (US\$) Donated

31m (US\$) Still required



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Over 46,000 IDPs to return to Khyber Agency

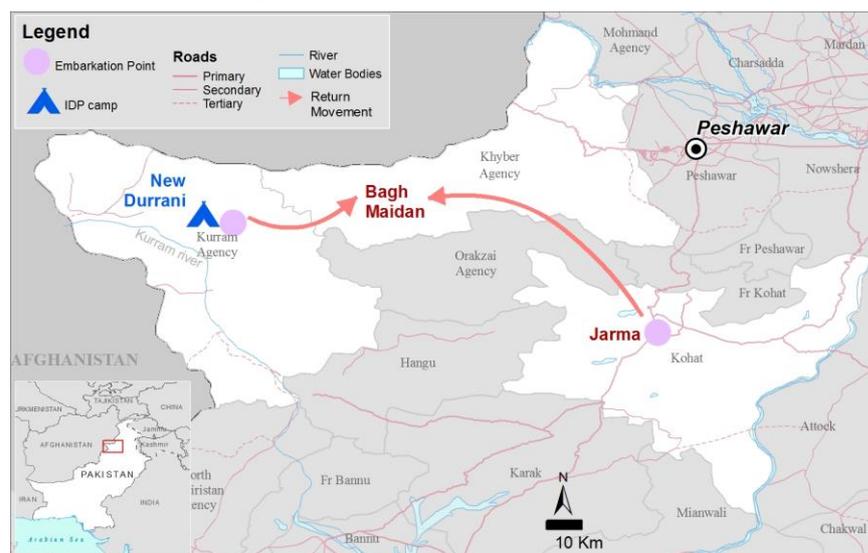
Returnees require assistance to rebuild their lives and livelihoods

Over 46,000 registered IDPs have started to return to their homes in Bagh Maidan area of remote Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The returns commenced on 7 May and are planned to conclude on 5 June. As of 10 May, over 4,600 people have returned. FDMA has indicated that they may facilitate returns of the unregistered IDPs to Tirah Valley once the current return of registered IDPs comes to an end.

Most people are returning to damaged houses and disrupted livelihoods. Agriculture and livestock are the major livelihoods in the area. Restoration of basic social services and livelihood support are vital to ensure sustainable returns.

The authorities have established two embarkation points, in Kohat District and Kurram Agency to facilitate returns. The returning families invariably receive return packages, provided by both, the Government and the humanitarian community. The package is comprised of transport, food rations for six months, hygiene kits, NFIs, vaccination among other items.

This is the second phase of returns. The first phase concluded in November last year when over 37,000 registered and nearly 40,000 non-registered people returned home.



According to the Protection Post Return Monitoring Report in March 2014 in the first phase of the Tirah returns mainly male members of the families returned first to prepare the conditions for the return of women and children due to the lack of proper shelter and basic services in the areas of return.

Humanitarian partners' access to the remote Tirah Valley remains a challenge due to the security situation and rough terrain.

The report also indicates an improved security situation with most areas of return already cleared by the security forces from non-state actors. Thus, the already returned community feels secure in the area, as reported in the focus group discussions.

Some 80,000 registered and an unknown number of non-registered people were displaced from Tirah Valley in March 2013 when fighting broke out between rival armed groups. Most of the IDPs settled in Peshawar, Nowshera, Hangu and Kohat districts and Kurram Agency.

Since last November some 100,000 people have returned to Tirah Valley and Kurram Agency in FATA. One million people remain displaced. The needs of these returnees and IDPs are outlined in the Strategic Response Plan, which is in the process of being finalized.

Lessons learned help improve returns process

Following the first phase of returns to Tirah Valley, humanitarian partners carried out a critical reflection of the process to improve the future returns.

Based on the lessons learned there are improved processes now in place. FDMA prepared a returns plan for each return phase, which outlines roles and responsibilities for various agencies, which improves coordination. Humanitarian partners and local authorities coordinate different activities surrounding returns.

The IDPs are informed about proposed return dates and facilities for the process in an information campaign, which includes broadcasting on the local radio and through community elders.

Facilities at the embarkation points have also been enhanced. There are shaded waiting areas for families, with latrines and drinking water available. All the children are immunized for polio as well as some other diseases while there are facilities for pregnant and lactating women. Ambulances are present at the embarkation point and at a transit point. Help and grievance desks are available.

FDMA coordinates with security agencies to ensure security at the embarkation and disembarkation points as well as on the way.

Access, however, remains a challenge. Tirah Valley is situated at the Pakistani-Afghan border with very limited access. The uncertain security situation and rough terrain is making the return monitoring a challenge.

Normal to below-normal monsoon rains in 2014

No part of Pakistan is likely to receive above average rainfall

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department's (PMD), the preliminary outlook for the 2014 monsoon season indicates most parts of the country will receive normal or below normal rain fall during the season. The monsoon season spans the months of July to September in Pakistan. PMD's weather forecast reinforces the prediction by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which had forecast a below-normal to normal monsoon rainfall across South Asia.

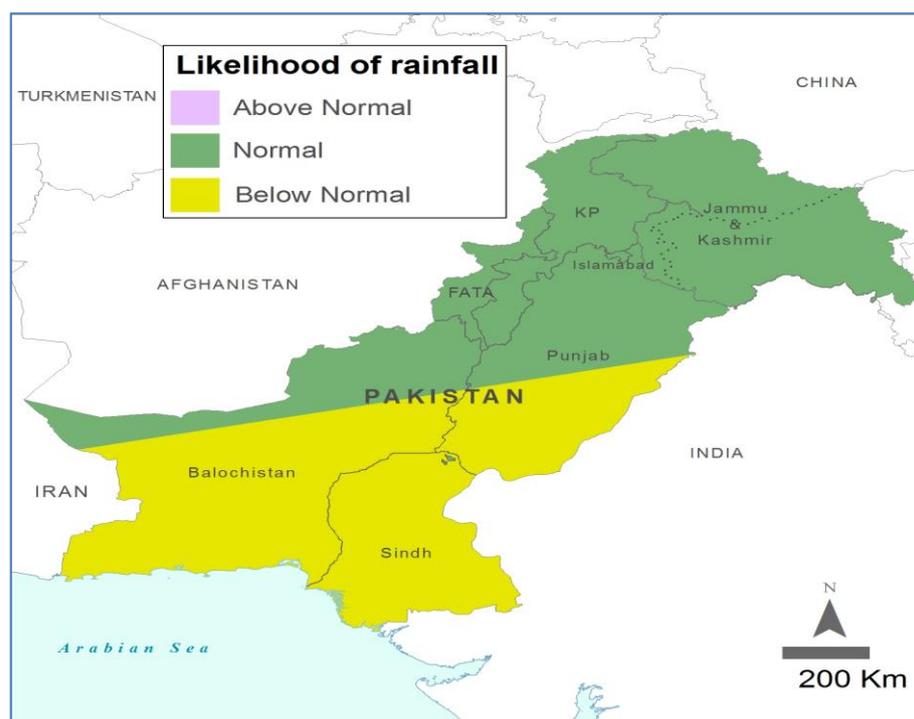
The WMO experts held their annual meeting in Pune, India, from 22 to 23 April, and their report constitutes the first mid-term monsoon forecast for South Asia. The experts expressed concern over the potential adverse impacts of the emerging El Niño. El Niño is associated with the warming of the Pacific and the consequent less-than-normal rainfall in South Asia.

Low rainfall could worsen drought situation in south of the country

Below-normal rains are anticipated in most of Balochistan and Sindh, and in southern Punjab. Most of these areas already face a prolonged dry spell, resulting in a drought-like situation, especially in Tharparkar and adjoining districts of Sindh. These regions rely on monsoon rains for subsistence farming and fodder for the livestock. A below-normal rainfall will result in low fodder production resulting in food insecurity and a possible increase in malnutrition rates.

Below normal rains in the semi-arid south-eastern Pakistan could increase the hardships of the people who primarily depend on monsoon rains for agriculture and fodder for their livestock.

Normal rains are anticipated only over the north-western and northern regions of the country.



The capacity building project focuses on enhancing the capacity of district officials who are the first ones to respond to a disaster as it occurs.

Support to enhance govt response capacity

Some 680 officials and NGO staff benefit from training events

The Norway-funded capacity-building project has trained some 680 government officials and NGO staff in 60 disaster-prone districts across Pakistan. The project seeks to enhance emergency preparedness and response among first responders. The training modules are provided by a variety of Humanitarian Country Team members.

Officials are trained in coordination techniques, registration, camp management, relief item distributions and protection. In culmination, they engage in multi-hazard simulation exercises to apply their newly acquired knowledge to various disaster response scenarios.

The inter-agency workshops organized in conjunction with the National Disaster Management Authority and district authorities provide an excellent opportunity for cooperation and sharing of information between various Government departments involved in disaster response.

The first phase ran between April and August, with more than 680 Government officials and representatives of humanitarian organizations trained.

Rescue 1122 takes steps toward INSARAG accreditation

The Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue 1122) is the largest emergency service in Pakistan. It provides emergency ambulance, search and rescue, fire services and other related services in all districts of Punjab. Based on its eight years' success, Rescue 1122 is also providing technical assistance to other provinces to establish their own rescue service.

On request from Rescue 1122, OCHA is supporting the organisation to develop their urban search and rescue (USAR) capacity toward seeking an accreditation with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG). OCHA acts as the secretariate for INSARAG which is a global network of more than 80 countries and organisations. Rescue 1122 currently has USAR capacity, which can respond within Punjab or at a national level, depending on the request. An accreditation with INSARAG, would enable Rescue 1122 offer international standard urban search and rescue capacity at international level.

OCHA has been supporting the team development to date. Additionally, OCHA arranged an international consultant to assess the existing capacities within Rescue 1122 and provided guidance on the way forward. His assessment was very positive as to the existing capacity

ASG calls for more humanitarian support

ASG meets with affected people and government officials

UN Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Humanitarian Affairs, Ms. Kyung-wha Kang concluded her mission to Pakistan on 8 May, stressing the need for more support to millions of people affected by insecurity, natural disasters and chronic malnutrition in the country.

Ms. Kang visited the Jalozei Camp for displaced people in Nowshera District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), which hosts an estimated 32,000 people. She met families who have been displaced, some for years, many waiting to return home.



ASG Kang in Jalozei Camp in Nowshera, KP. The camp is the oldest IDP camp in Pakistan and home to nearly 32,000 people displaced from FATA due to insecurity. Photo: OCHA/ Humaira Mehboob

“The protracted suffering of 1 million people who are displaced in KP and FATA is heart-wrenching. More needs to be done to assist them and the host communities whose resources have been stretched to the limit,” said Ms. Kang.

During her three-day mission, Ms. Kang met senior government officials in Islamabad and Peshawar and discussed ways to enhance the close cooperation

between the authorities and the international humanitarian community in assisting people in need.

Ms. Kang commended the Government of Pakistan for its significant support to vulnerable communities in KP and FATA and also discussed ways to strengthen ongoing relief efforts and programmes in Tharparkar and the surrounding districts in Sindh, where communities continue to be affected by chronic malnutrition.

“The solutions are there but we won’t be able to implement them unless all partners – the Government of Pakistan, the UN, civil society, and philanthropists alike – come together to urgently tackle these challenges,” said Ms. Kang.

For further information, please contact: ochapakistan@un.org

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