



# Return Intention Survey

## Orakzai Agency

### April 2016



## Executive Summary

Responding to the evolving situation, in line with the Return SOPs endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in February 2012, and in accordance with the 'Return Policy Framework for IDP from FATA', endorsed by the FATA authorities in 2010, the Protection cluster agreed to conduct a series of consultations with families displaced from Orakzai Agency.

A return intention survey for the IDP families of Orakzai has been conducted by IVAP, IOM-Comms and EHSAR through their call centers in Peshawar and Bannu in the beginning of April 2016. As of 31 March 2016, the total number of registered IDPs verified by NADRA is 22,498 families<sup>1</sup>. The majority of the families are living in displacement in Kohat (16,193), Hangu (4,322) and Peshawar District (1,893) and originate from three Tehsils in Orakzai: a) Upper Orakzai, b) Central Orakzai, c) Lower Orakzai. A sample size was selected from each Tehsil in proportion to the displaced population data for each Tehsil.

A return process of IDPs is a condition in which all individuals displaced from their homes during conflict are assured the option for a **voluntary, safe, informed** and **dignified** return to their homes.

### **Voluntary return:**

All displaced persons should be permitted to make their own decision without coercion or harassment of any kind, and they should be able to freely choose their place of residence:

**99%** of the persons interviewed stated that they want to return to their place of origin with **45%** responding that 'they have no other option, life in displacement is worse than in return area'.

**99%** of the respondents were male and **98%** left their places of origin between 6 and 10 years ago.

**67%** stated that political authorities are primarily responsible for making the decision to return while **56%** noted that they do not participate in the decision-making process. However, **100%** replied that they are not under pressure to return.

### **Safe return:**

A return process should focus on providing safe passage for displaced populations as they return to their homes. Upon return, displaced persons should still receive protection from threats of violence, harassment, intimidation, or persecution. While it is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan (GoP) to provide this protection, the humanitarian community shall safeguard equal access for returnees to security, health, education and other basic services, along with providing judicial or legal recourse when needed.

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<sup>1</sup> UNHCR IDP fact sheet, 31 March 2016.

When asked about the challenges to return, **27%** of the interviewees responded that their houses are destroyed/damaged; **17%** commented on the lack of health facilities and the destruction of/damages to their land; while **10%** mentioned the lack of education facilities and **8%** the lack of livelihood opportunities. Only **2%** mentioned safety/security issues as a challenge to return.

There are also specific concerns about the return of women and girls. Of the **11%** who are apprehensive about this, the difficulties that women and girls might face when collecting water from long instances was mentioned as well as the lack of (female) health facilities.

#### **Informed return:**

To provide IDPs with full access to the information they need to decide whether or not to return is essential. One means for doing this is to arrange visits for IDP representatives to assess the conditions and situation in the areas of origin. Women, community leaders, village and tribal elders should be included as much as possible on these trips. However, these visits have not been happening and **97%** of the persons interviewed indicated that ‘an organized visit to the area of origin would be useful’.

In addition, **81%** replied negatively to the question whether ‘they are aware of any information campaign on the return process conducted in their community’. **69%** of the respondents are not aware about the government return cash package and of the **31%** who are aware, **40%** indicated that they received this information from community elders.

#### **Dignified return**

During the return phase, women, children, the elderly and persons with a disability are susceptible to criminal and sexual abuse from those around them, including other returnees. Special protection for these populations through targeted assistance, public security and law enforcement programs, is needed throughout the displacement and return cycle.

**2.8%** of the families returning are accompanied by family members aged between 40 and 60 years old who have a disability and/or are chronically ill. **90%** of them are in need of medical care, **2%** need access to psycho-social services while **3%** require assistive devices and specialized care. Due to the lack of health care and facilities in the return areas, this group will need special protection assistance.

## Introduction

Orakzai Agency is one of the agencies of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and is spread over an area of 1,538 square kilometers. It is bounded by Kurram Agency in the west and Khyber in the north, Kohat district in the south and Peshawar in the east. Orakzai Agency is a mountainous tract dissected by numerous dry water courses especially in the south western part of the agency. It was made an agency in 1973 by the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. The capital of Orakzai Agency is Kalaia Town. The Orakzai are the main tribe with four other major non Orakzai tribes including the Ali Khel, the Mullah Khel, the Mishti and the Shaikhan. Orakzai is the only tribal agency which has no direct borders with Afghanistan.



## Methodology

The return intention survey (RIS) was conducted through call centres operated by cluster members IVAP, EHSAR and IOM/HComms. IVAP contributed eight data collection officers and their target of data collection was 200, two EHSAR call center staff interviewed 100 Head of Households (HoH) IOM/HComms provided two staff members for this activity and their target was 92. The breakdown of the sample allocation is given in the below table.

Organization	Orakzai
IVAP	200
IOM	50
Ehsar	100
CERD	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>

## Sample Frame

Sample frame covers conceptual data set (UNHCR data) and the geographical coverage (Districts, agencies and Camp). Multiple frame approach will be utilized where combination of list frame (family level data) and area frame will be used to decide upon the conceptual data set and geographical units. The baseline

criteria for selecting the geographical unit is based on the de-notification announced by the government for both Kurram and Orakzai agencies (fully de-notified)

### Sample Size

For determination of the sample size, standard statistical procedure was used, while calculating the sample size, the terms used are;

**Confidence Level:** 95% confidence level was used when explaining if the sample was re-calculated with the same interval it will contain 95% of the desired population response.

**Margin of Error (Confidence Interval):** Margin of error is the deviation of the responses from the desired response and it was calculated by using the formula:

$$\text{Margin of Error} = 1/\text{square root of the sample size}$$

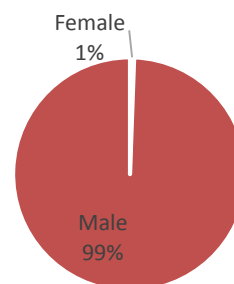
By using the above formula we get 5% margin of error for the sample size.

## Main findings of the report

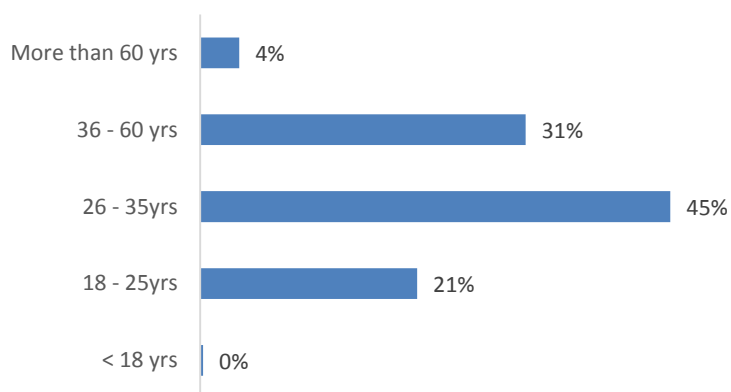
### Population Breakdown

Enumerators from EHSAR, IOM/Comms and IVAP interviewed 350 IDPs. Out of the 350 people interviewed, 348 were male (99%) and 2 female (1%).

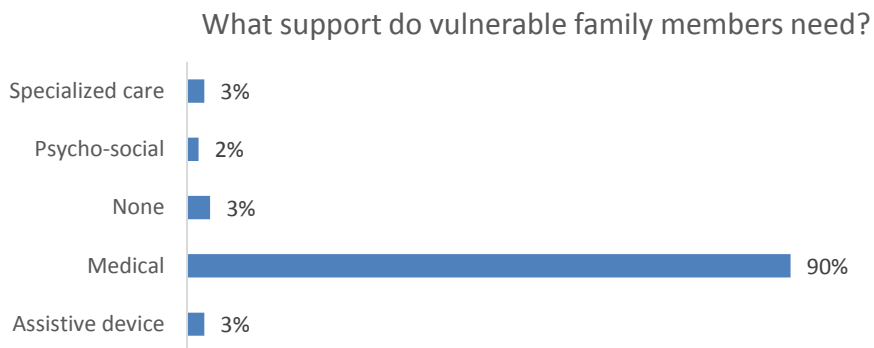
Gender Breakdown



Respondent Age breakdown

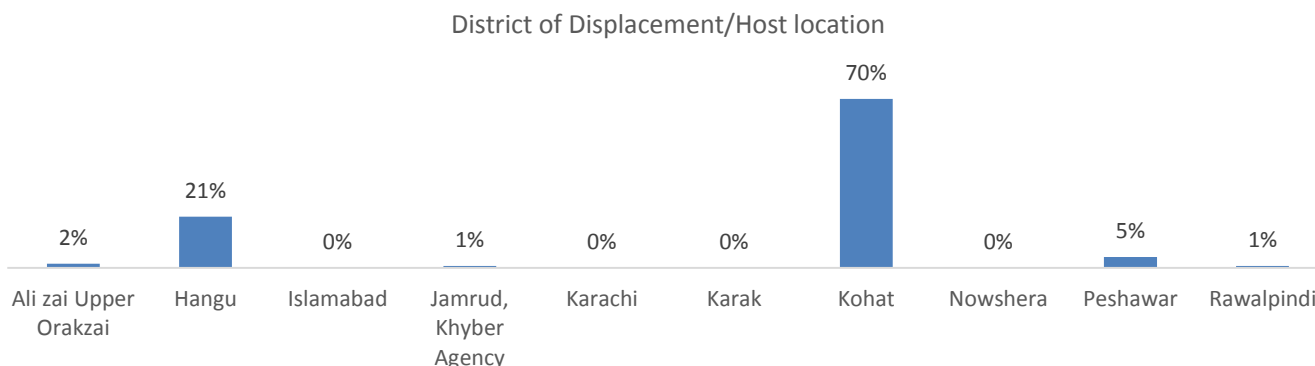


99% of respondents were registered. 45% of the respondents were between the ages of 26-35, years 31% were between 36-60 years, 21% were between 18-25 years and only 4% were above 60. 91% families said that they have vulnerable family members with them while 9% families had no vulnerable case. Out of those family members 90% indicated that their most important need is medical assistance, 3% indicated that it is specialized care, for 3% it was assistive devices and for 2% of it was psychosocial care.



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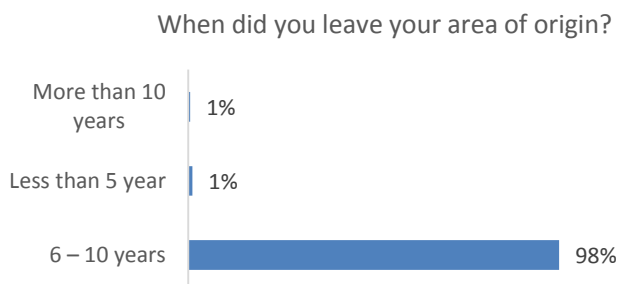
The breakdown of families settled in different host locations are that 70% of the IDPs are living in Kohat, 21% in Hangu, 5% in Peshawar, 2% in Alizai Upper Orakzai and 1% each in Jamrud and Rawalpindi.



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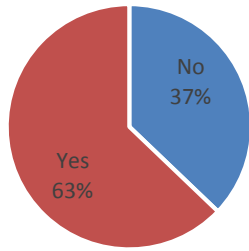
## Access to information

Among the interviewed IDPs, 98% left their area of origin between the time span of 6-10 years ago while 1% less than 5 years ago and 1% more than 10 years ago.





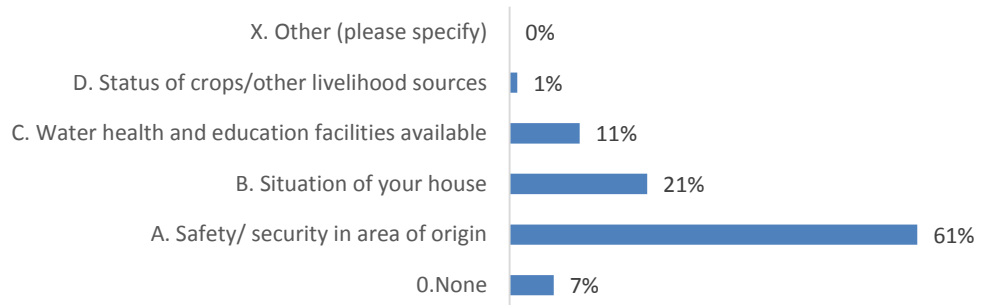
Information about the situation in your area of origin



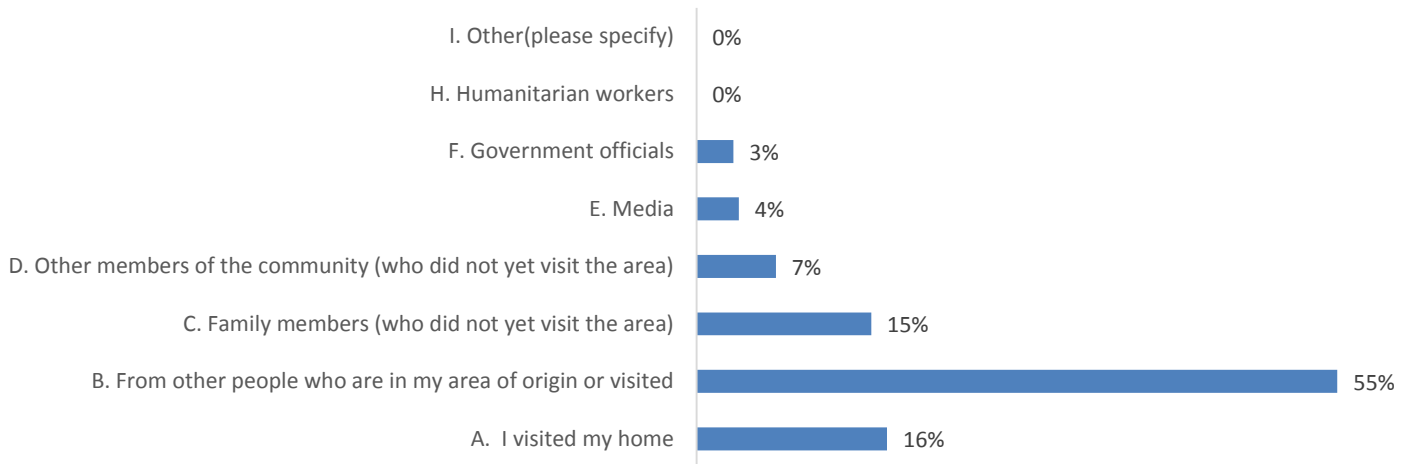
63% of IDPs are aware about current situation in their area of origin while rests 37% have no information about what is happening in their area.

61% of IDPs with return intentions wanted to be informed about safety and security in area of origin. 21% of IDPs are concerned about condition of their house after destruction. 11% want to know about water, health and education facilities. 7% of IDPs are not concerned with any kind of information sharing regarding their origin area situation whereas 1% is anxious to know about status of their lands that they were using for livelihood purposes.

More information on any of these issues



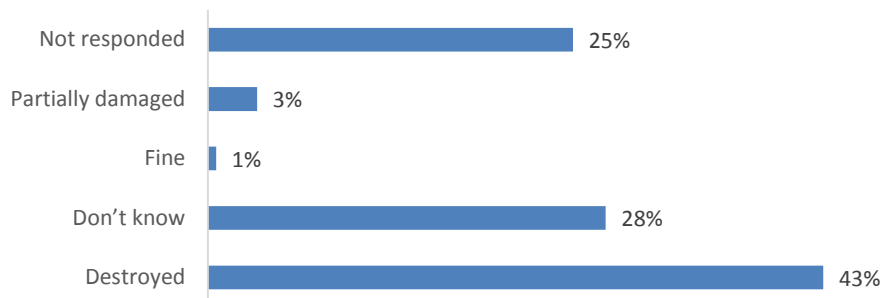
How do you receive information about your area of origin?



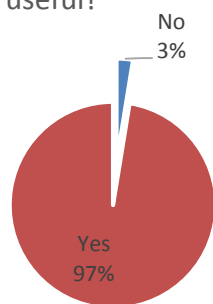
There are various sources from where IDPs are aware about their area of origin condition. Most of the IDPs i.e. 55% are informed by those who are already present in origin area or from those who visit their village. 16% IDPs claimed that they visit their community by themselves to know about prevailing situation. 15% of IDPs through their family members, 7% through community members, 4% through media and 3% are informed by government officials. None of the IDP was being informed by any humanitarian worker source.

43% of IDPs said that their homes in origin area are destroyed. 28% had no information about what condition their home is in. 25% IDPs did not responded for the question. 3% said their homes are partially destroyed while only 1% said that their homes in origin area are fine.

What is the condition of your house in your area of origin



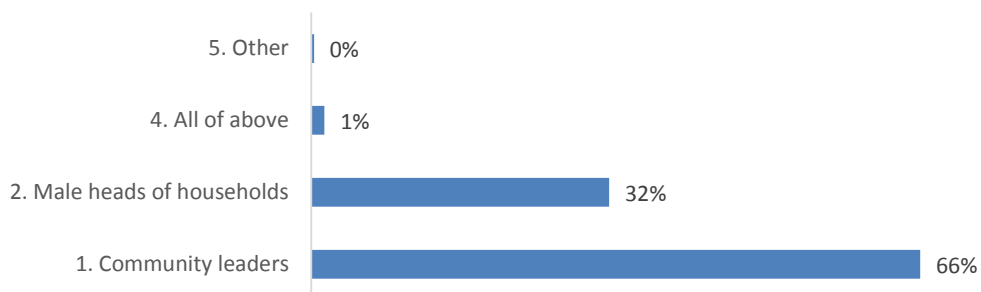
Would an organized visit to the areas be useful?



To know about current situation in the area of origin, 97% IDPs wished to organize a planned visit to the area and to see the situation by themselves rather than being informed by other sources. They considered such visit very useful. 3% of IDPs were not interested in any sort of organized visit for the purpose.

66% of the IDPs population said that community elders should visit the place of origin. 32% said that male heads of households should go for visit. 1% IDPs population has the vision that they are fine either with community elders or male heads of households.

For organized visit, who should go?



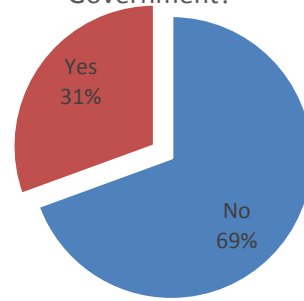
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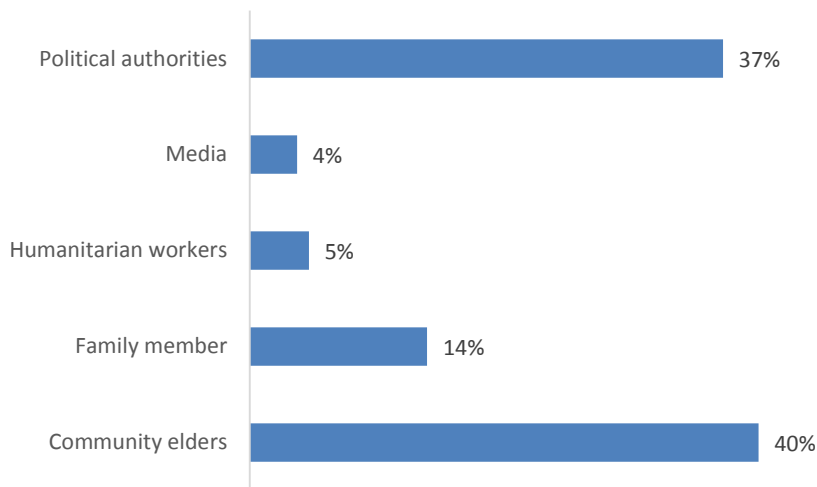
## Awareness for assistance

69% of IDPs revealed that they are not aware about any compensation grant or assistance provided by government for those who wish to return to their origin area whereas 31% had adequate knowledge about it.

Are you aware of the transportation and compensation grant/assistance given by the Government?



From whom do you have information about compensation grant/assistance given by the Government?

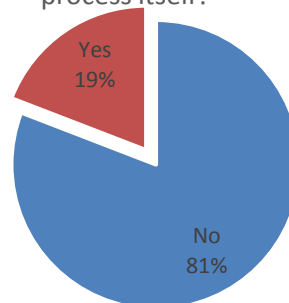


Among those who were informed about the compensation grant by government, mostly i.e. 40% by their community elders, 37% through political authorities, 14% through family members 5% through humanitarian workers while very less population i.e. 4% knew about the compensation through media.

## Return intentions

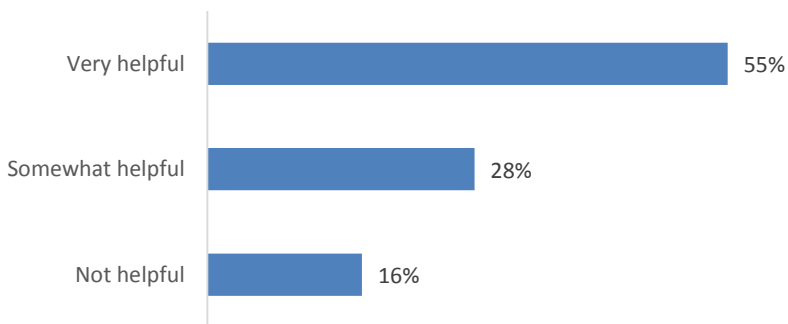
IDPs were asked about any campaign conducted so far in their displacement area about return process where 81% of IDPs were unaware while 19% has awareness about it.

Are you aware of any information campaign conducted in your community on the return process itself?

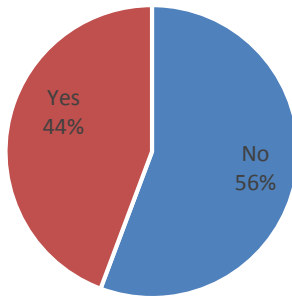


Among those who had information about return process campaign, 55% said that information provided to them about return was very helpful whereas 28% of them claimed it was useful but to some extent. 16% of IDPs were not satisfied with the information provided to them and according to them it would not help them in return process.

Information Provided was:

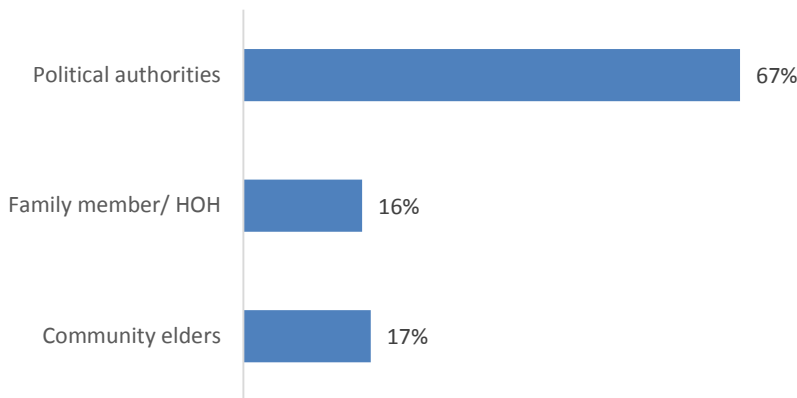


Do you participate in decision making process?



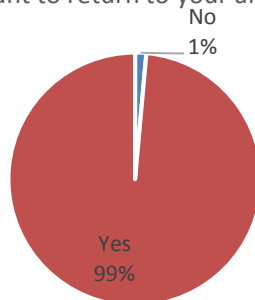
56% of IDPs are not involved in decision making process for returning to their area. 44% revealed that they have the authority to take decision for returning to their area and can take decision accordingly.

Who is primarily responsible for making the decision to return?



According to 67% of IDPs, primarily responsible for taking major decision for return are the political authorities. 17% said that community elders have the authority to make decisions while 16% said that family members or head of households can only take decision for return.

Do you want to return to your area of origin?

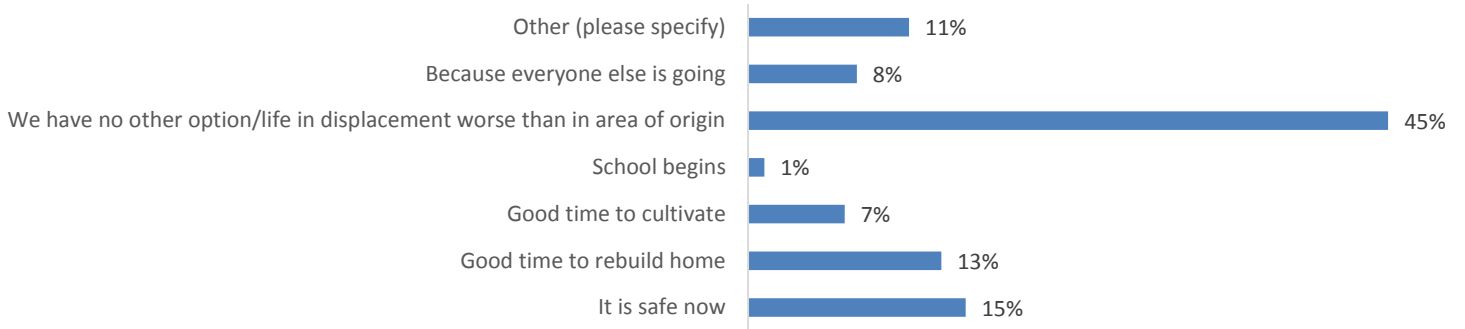


All of the IDPs were of the view that that they are not pressurized by anybody to return to their area of origin.

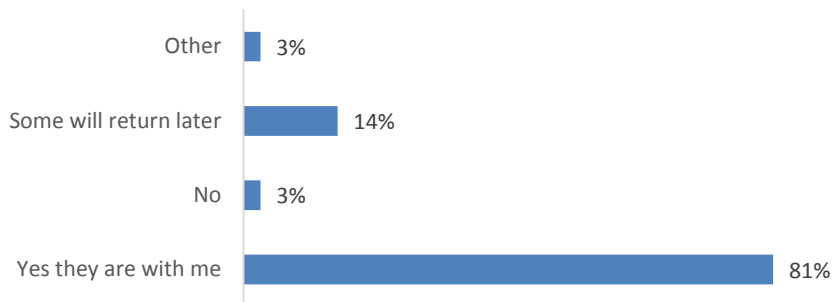
99% of IDPs are willing to return back to their origin area while only 1% of the population did not have any intentions for returning.

Those IDPs who want to return to their origin area disclose reasons for it too. Mostly IDPs i.e. 45% of the population said that they had no other option but to return because life they are spending in displacement is worse than that of origin. 15% wanted to return because they think the area is safe and secured now. 13% had the vision that returning is a good option because they can reconstruct their destroyed homes now. 8% said that they are returning only because others are going back too. 7% wanted to return because they think the weather is feasible for agricultural activities. Only 1% said that they are going back now because of education of children as school will start soon. 11% of the population has various unknown reasons for returning to the area.

### Why do you want to return?

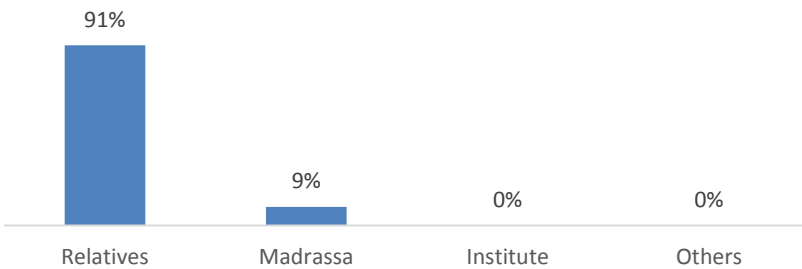


### Will you be taking all your family members with you?



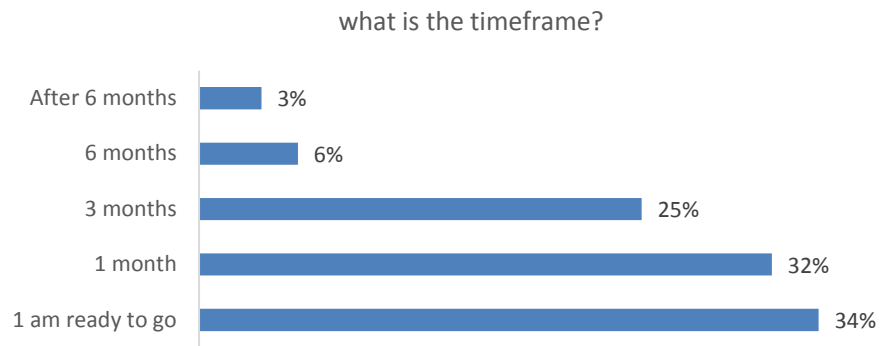
81% IDPs said that they will take all family members along with them when they are returning back. 14% said that some of their family members will come back later after they are settled there. 3% of the IDPs said that they would not take their family members with them while going back.

### Where will these children stay?



There are 3% of IDPs who are not taking all their family members with them where they are leaving children behind too. Upon asking where these children will stay after they leave 91% of IDPs said that they will stay with relatives while rest 9% said they will stay in madrassa.

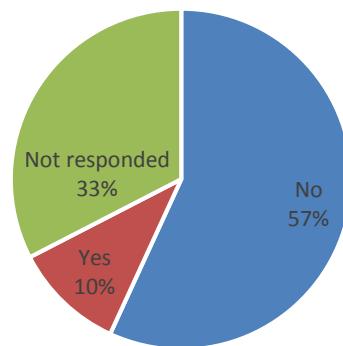
Out of 99% IDPs who are willing to return back to their origin area, 34% want to return immediately, 32% within one month time frame, 25% between three months of time period, 6% want to go back within six months and remaining 3% have plans to return after six months.



## Challenges to Return

Upon asking about challenges that possibly IDPs are expecting once they returned, the first challenge that was revealed by 27% of IDPs was their damaged and destroyed houses. 17% of IDPs were concerned about their damaged lands. 17% IDPs were anxious about no health facilities in the area. 10% were worried about lack of educational facilities over there, 8% with lack of livelihood activities, 4% said that their challenge to rerun to their area is that they have no enough financial resources to get back. 2% of the population said that they have safety issues while going back to area of origin. None of the families have separated or unaccompanied children with them.

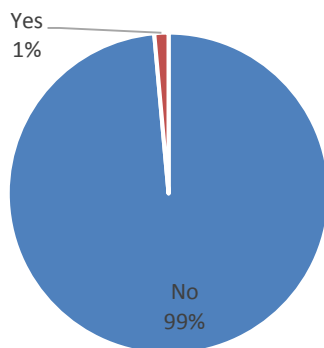
Are there any specific concerns about women and girls returning



57% IDPs said they have no concerns regarding women and girls upon their return. 33% of IDPs did not feel to give response in this connection while 10% showed their grievances about it. Regarding specific concerns about

women and girls, it was mentioned that females face difficulties in bringing water from long distances. There were many issues regarding health too as no medical facility is available there.

Would you prefer to re-settle somewhere else instead of returning to origin area



99% of IDPs said that they do not want to resettle somewhere else instead of returning to their origin area. Only 1% of IDP population wanted to re-settle in another area while in displacement.

## Recommendations

- Returnees should have recourse for property restitution or compensation, and should receive strong recovery and rehabilitation support to re-build their livelihoods and to have access to basic services. This might ensure the sustainability of the returns and prevent secondary displacements.
- Humanitarian community shall remain vigilant and observe that the SOPs for return are followed to the letter and that returns are voluntary. Moreover, WFP and UNHCR shall not de-register IDPs from their database upon request from FDMA without proper verification.
- The gap between humanitarian assistance and early recovery/rehabilitation activities is causing concerns particularly related to the returns of the most vulnerable and it is recommended that the humanitarian and protection operation continues to receive funding.