



Elderly IDPs proceed to prioritised registration from the shaded waiting area at Jerma, Kohat. ©UNHCR/A. Lewis

Tirah Valley Displacement

1 May 2013 Update

Background

On 15 March 2013, violent clashes began between militant groups in the Tirah valley, largely in the Khyber Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, precipitating large-scale displacement of the local population. Most fled in one of three directions: towards the Peshawar Valley, Kohat/Hangu or Kurram Agency.

At an early stage, UNHCR started registering and assisting the displaced in the New Durrani, Togh Sarai and Jalozaï camps. Subsequently, due to security concerns resulting from the character of this exceptional population, the Provincial government directed that registration and assistance of the Tirah Valley caseload should not take place in the Peshawar valley, where it was feared that further security incidents might occur.

Fundamental humanitarian principles require that any relocation must be entirely voluntary and in full consultation with the individuals concerned. The authorities provided assurances of cooperation and security assistance to assist UNHCR in setting up a new registration and assistance hub in Jerma, near Kohat. Following this, the agency swiftly developed a plan to construct the registration site and put a team in place to commence work.

At the time of reporting, the breakdown of the registered population is as follows:

Breakdown of Registered Population		
Location	Families	Individuals
Jalozai	87	416
New Durrani	938	5,138
Kurram Off Camp	6,890	33,329
Kohat	3,489	16,311

Age and Gender Breakdown of Registered Tirah Valley IDP Population						
Gender	Below 5	Aged 5-11	Aged 12-17	Aged 18-59	Over 60	Total
Female	4,960	5,685	3,058	11,316	386	25,405
Male	6,839	7,078	3,306	11,478	1,088	29,789
Total	11,799	12,763	6,364	22,794	1,474	55,194
Total as %	21%	23%	12%	41%	3%	

Response

Jerma Registration Hub

Since opening on Saturday 27 April, the new registration hub at Jerma, Kohat, has registered 16,311 individuals (3,489 families), largely through the presence of the respective heads of household. The pace of registration has not dropped – Tuesday 30 April saw 5,073 individuals registered, the highest number since the site became functional.

The site itself centres around four UNHCR domes that date back to 1981, when assistance was first provided to Afghan refugees in Jerma. Two of these domes are occupied by WFP for storage of dry-rations. A third is being used by UNHCR and NRC for female registration and women-only grievance desks, with the fourth housing a health centre. The health centre offers vaccination, treatment of minor ailments, routine check-ups and emergency services with an ambulance on standby. Staffing is provided by the district health authorities, medicines by WHO, and furnishing put in place by UNHCR. A small, temporary UNHCR control room oversees the operation from the centre of the hub whilst the Foundation for Rural Development (FRD) is responsible for on-site maintenance.

The site has to conform to strict security standards for the Tirah valley population. Constant adjustments and alterations are made to ensure this. Currently, those seeking registration form a line along the roadside before passing through the outer layer of security and into the

site. The site is now being expanded to include a shaded waiting area in an adjacent field: this is bringing the beneficiaries away from the road. UNHCR implementing partner Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) is working alongside PDMA staff and the Police to secure the waiting areas beyond the initial entrance to the site.

Registration is carried out in two phases, listing and formal registration. For the former, known as R1, NRC has 24 enumerators processing male IDPs at any one time, as well as a further five staff processing women inside the dome. Once listed, beneficiaries are given a pre-registration token. The Head of household, in most cases a male, attends registration on behalf of each family. Those women who visit the site normally do so due to a lack of adult male family members and are consequently given priority as a vulnerable caseload, along with the elderly, infirm and disabled. For those groups, specific desks have been organised, to facilitate and fast-track the process. Beneficiaries have been informed that registration is carried out once for each family.

The second stage of registration (R2) takes place after a check of the details of the registrant against the existing database registered IDP families maintained by UNHCR. It is therefore a much simpler process in which the IDPs hand in their pre-registration token and receive their printed IDP registration forms. This is staffed by two NRC staff: one male and one female. This section also houses a grievance desk. Once this is complete, the beneficiary can proceed to a separate, self-contained section of the site where WFP distributes food assistance.

A child protection service is available through the authorities. WASH facilities are available in both men's and women's sections whilst water coolers can be found next to waiting areas in the registration hub.

UNHCR Activities

- UNHCR continues to assist the Tirah displaced in Kurram Agency. It has to date distributed a total of 678 NFI kits and 797 all-weather tents to beneficiaries at New Durrani Camp through its implementing partner CERD. A further 142 NFI kits are held in stock at New Durrani along with 155 all-weather tents.

Current Displacement and Anticipated Movements

