



Return Monitoring Report

Shalozan Tangi, Kurrum agency

June 2014

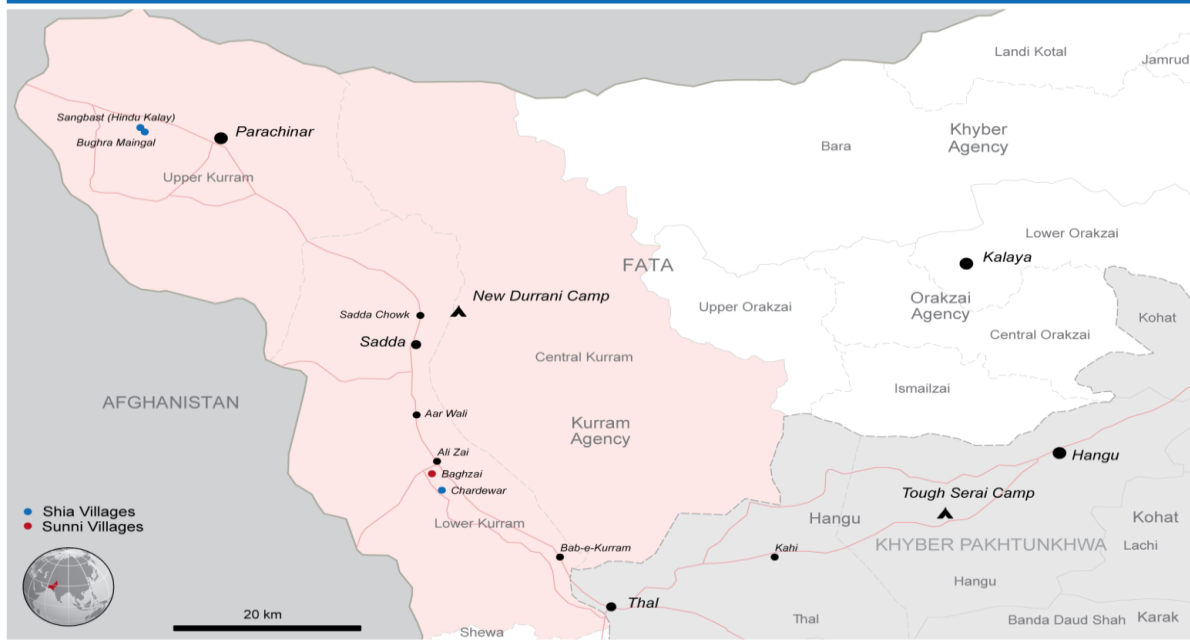
I. Background

According to political administration, Kurrum agency's total population is 500,000 inhabitants. Kurrum agency is the only tribal agency, which has Shia Muslim (with 58 percent Sunni and 42 percent Shia) significant minority, unlike the other agencies which have predominantly Sunni sect population. The majority of the Shiites live in the upper part of the Kurrum agency, while Sunnis live in lower and central Kurrum. The population of Kurrum valley consists of a number of tribes, namely Turi, Bangash, Parachamkani, Massozai, Alisherzai, Zaimusht, Mangal, Kharotai, Ghalgi and Hazara. Shalozan Tangi is located in upper Kurrum.

In April and November 2007, the worst sectarian clashes started in the history of Kurrum agency. These clashes started in upper Kurrum agency and soon spread over both upper and lower sub-divisions of the agency and families started fleeing to down districts, Hangu, Kohat Peshawar etc. The government notified the entire Kurrum agency as a conflict zone and requested the humanitarian agency for registration and assistance. UNHCR established registration desks through Social Welfare department in Hangu and Kohat for the IDPs.

Protection cluster mission was conducted from 22 to 24 April 2014 to Kurrum (composed of FDMA, protection cluster, UNHCR and WFP staff) during which Shalozan Tangi area was also visited.¹

¹ See Protection cluster report on mission to Kurrum 22- 26 April 2014, available at https://pak.humanitarianresponse.info/search/type/document/clusters/93?search_api_views_fulltext=



Map 1: Kurrum agency

FATA Secretariat through FDMA informed the humanitarian community that 19 villages had been de-notified in 2012. The return to Shalozan Tangi area was discussed in the Return Task Force (RTF) held on 21 May 2014. FDMA requested for facilitation from the humanitarian community to enable approximately 600 IDPs (including unregistered families) affected by conflict and sectarian violence respectively to return to Shalozan Tangi areas in Kurrum agency.

In order to know the consent of the IDPs to return and their level of information related to return, 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 IDPs from FATA” endorsed by the FATA authorities in 2010, protection cluster conducted Return intention survey from (RIS)² during which 137 interviews were done with the Shalozan Tangi displaced population. In addition, during the inter cluster mission from 26 to 28 May, protection cluster representative conducted additional consultations with populations displaced from Shalozan Tangi (12 male key informants) and in areas of return in Shalozan Tangi (two male key informants from amongst the population already returned to the area of origin in 2012).

² See Protection cluster report on Return intention survey on Shalozan Tangi conducted in June 2014 available at https://pak.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/RIS%20Shalozan%20Tangi_Kurrum_June%202014.pdf

The return process to Shalozan Tangi in upper Kurrum agency started on 9 June 2014. An embarkation point was established in Shalozan Dara for the process of return and a total of 407 registered families returned from the embarkation point till 13th June 2014. Protection cluster through its partner Sarhad rural support programme (SRSP) conducted 18 key informants (KI) interviews at the embarkation point in order to know the voluntary nature of the return and what difficulties they will be facing while returning to the place of origin.

II. Profile of consulted returnees

At the embarkation point at Shalozan dara 18 male respondents were interviewed during the return, all of them aged between 19-59 years. There were no persons with disabilities amongst the interviewed returnees. Women were not interviewed, as there were not women returning.

III. Awareness sessions conducted at embarkation returnee points

During the five days of return monitoring process from Shalozan dara in Kurrum agency, 470 sessions on mine risk education and legal documentation were delivered. All participants were male. Overviews of the session are provided below.

Date	Embarkation point	MRE Session (individuals)	Legal Doc session (Individuals)	Kid/FGD Conducted
9 th June 2014	Shalozan dara	110	110	1
10 th June 2014		140	140	5
11 th June 2014		120	120	5
12 th June 2014		70	70	4
13 th June 2013		30	30	3
Total		470	470	

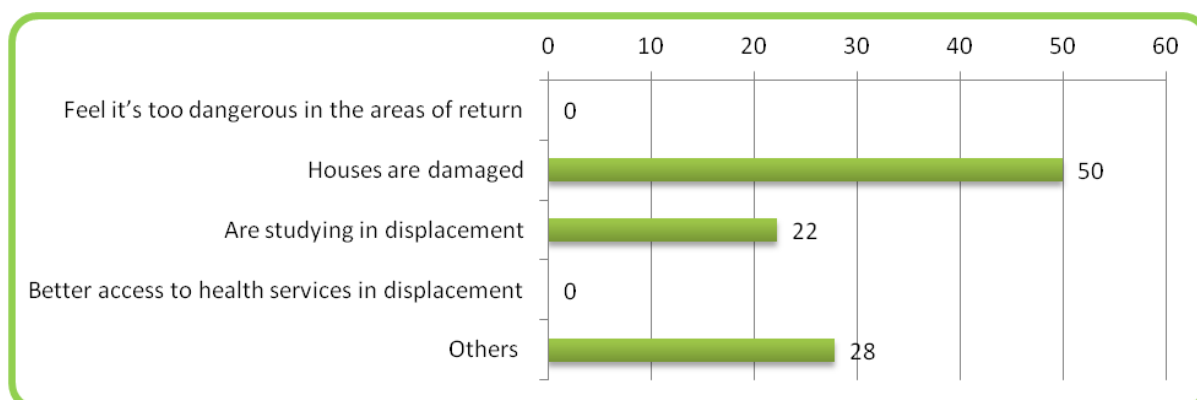
Table1: Overview of awareness sessions conducted during the return to Shalozan Tangi

IV. Findings

All of the respondents shared that they **have not been put under pressure to return**. Surprisingly, none of the respondents was aware of the redress mechanism in case of forced return arises- to whom they would refer the issue.

All returnees indicated that they would be returning in split families- some of the family members will be staying behind in area of displacement. In regards to the reasons why they are not return as a whole family, 50% of the respondents said that the reason being their houses are damaged, 28%

were not satisfied with the security arrangement in the place of return, while 22% replied that their children are studying in the area of displacement.



Graph 1: Reasons for not bringing immediately all family members to the areas of return

For families who will be staying behind, 94% of family members will be staying with their relatives in areas of displacement; while 6% replied that they would stay in rented houses in area of displacement. When asked how long it would take the split family members to join them in areas of origin, all respondents responded that it would take them about three and more months to join all family members in areas of origin.

Access to information on the return process

All consulted returnees at the embarkation point reported that they were informed about the return process by the government, local authorities, shura and local committee's members respectively, amongst them 7 of the respondents also said that they received the information about the return from newspaper.

In regards to advanced notice on return, all interviewees replied they had received information one week before the start of return. 89% of returnees consulted at embarkation point had adequate access to information on voluntary return form (VRF), 89% were aware about the time of return. All were aware of embarkation point and transport modalities. 96% had information about the assistance they would be receiving during return, while none of them knew about the availability of special transport for person with disabilities and pregnant women.

All consulted returnees shared that they need more information about what type and amount of food items and NFIs respectively would they receive, while 75% wanted to know about the area they would be receiving the assistance within the embarkation point.

All the respondents were reportedly informed about the security situation in the area of origin. While none was aware whether their house has been occupied and situation of land in the area of return, 72 % lacked information about the services available in area of return and 61% had no knowledge about presence of land mines / UXOs present in return areas.

The source of information on areas of return was reportedly political administration, as well as committee members and local elders. Furthermore, all returnees wished to know more about³ services available after return (health, education, clean drinking water), followed by house and land compensation (94%), Government assistance on livelihoods (68%), and further assistance provided by the organizations.

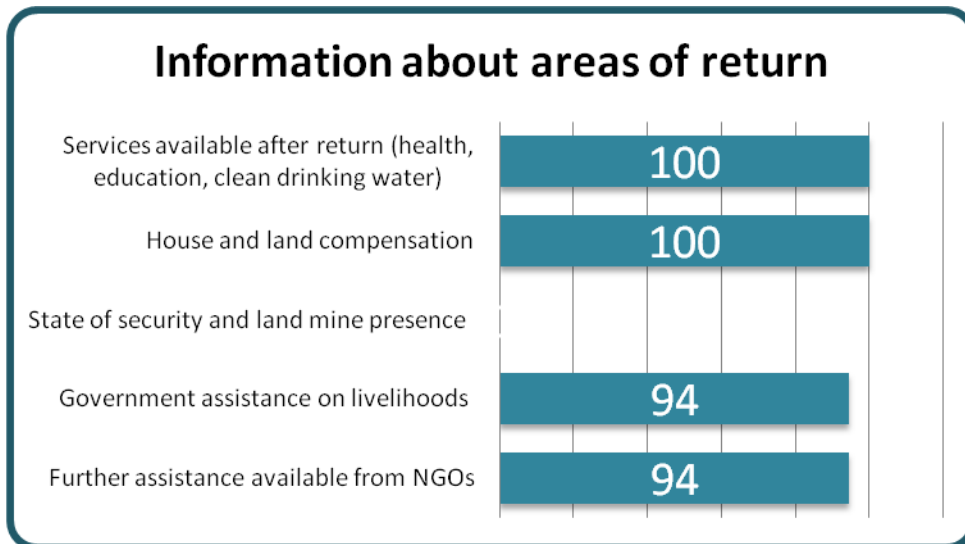


Table 2: Information needed about the areas of return as requested by returnees

Majority of the returnees consulted at Sholzan Dara embarkation point felt that the security situation at the time of return is fine and they can return back safely. While few of the respondents showed their concerns on security and were reluctant to return with whole family due to fear of reoccurrence of sectarian violence which might result in new displacement.

Reception facilities and return process

Transport facilities from Sadda to the embarkation point at Sholzan dara upper Kurrum agency was provided by the political administration of Kurrum agency free of cost. None of the desks which are usually part of the return such as information desk, child desk, grievance desk or health screening were placed at the embarkation point.

When the returnees were asked about the main challenges they may be facing in area of origin, three identical responses were given by the interviewees: shelter, livelihood and Housing compensation were the biggest challenges which they may be facing upon return.

The returnees were mainly requesting support in terms of farming tools, compensation for house and thirdly rehabilitation of infrastructure in area of origin- all of the responses were identical for these three categories.

¹ Multiple answers possible

Recommendation

- Strong protection monitoring is necessary in areas of return in order to monitor the situation after return in the context of post sectarian violence conflict
- Government authorities need to provide more detailed information on the security situation in the area of origin as most of the IDPs' information is based on informal sources which are often not correct and this is one of the hurdles to make informed decision about their return.
- Information regarding return should be shared at least two weeks prior to the departure as per the SOPs on communication about return.
- Government should share information on land and housing issues as well as compensations in the places of return.
- The provision of services must be ensured at the place of return, and also livelihood restoration activities shall be launched to provide economic opportunities to the affected population especially cash for work and agriculture support is necessary for quick recovery
- The information desk, Grievance desk and Child protection desk should be made available at embarkation point during every return without exception.



Protection team giving guidance and delivering awareness session on mine and risk education (photo: SRSP)



Protection team member interviewing key informants (photo: SRSP)