



## Rapid protection cluster assessment on North Waziristan displacement

Bannu, D.I.Khan, Karak, Kohat, Lakki Marwat and Tank 28-30 June 2014



**Figure 1:** Cluster partner staff member busy in conducting key informants interview in Bannu

## **Acknowledgements**

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Sincere thanks to all the agencies for their usual professionalism, dedication and volunteered support to the protection cluster.

We are indebted to all the men and women who took time to talk to us. Without them, this assessment was not possible.

We hope that the findings and recommendations of this rapid assessment will serve as a useful tool to understand the protection concerns of the displaced population and would help the Government of Pakistan and the humanitarian partners to design appropriate responses to address protection and assistance needs of the North Waziristan Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

## **Background:**

North Waziristan Agency (NWA) is situated on the Pakistan – Afghanistan border and adjacent to South Waziristan Agency, Kurram Agency, the Frontier Region (FR) of Bannu, FR Karak (FATA) and Bannu and Hangu districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Miranshah is the main town and also agency headquarters, other major towns include Mir Ali and Razmak. The NWA consists of three subdivisions and nine tehsils. The total geographical area of NWA is 4,707 Sq Km. Generally the population is extremely conservative and insular, both socially and religiously. Main tribes include Uthamanzai and Dawar Wazir.

Since 2001, the NWA remained centre of different activities of armed non-state actors. Different groups of non-state actors used to operate in or from NWA. The government has tried to restore its writ through dialogue but the negotiation failed and the government has decided to establish its writ through military operation. The security forces carried out targeted bombing of the suspected militant hideouts in late May 2014 which resulted in displacement of over 60,000 people from NWA into Bannu, D.I.Khan, FR Bannu and other adjacent districts.

On 15<sup>th</sup> June 2014, the Pakistani government announced a full scale operation against the armed non-state actors in NWA. The initially imposed curfew was relaxed on 18 June 2014 and people were allowed to leave NWA. As a result, as of 6 July 2014 a total of 62,251 families comprising of 786,107 individuals were registered by the authorities, of which 43% are children (338,828), 30% are women (236,254) and 27% (211,025) are men. With exception of few families that are residing in Bakhakhel Camp, almost all displaced population is living with host families.

The Protection Cluster through its partners has conducted a second rapid assessment to assess the situation and to identify key protection issues, the evidence collected through rapid assessment will be used in advocacy initiatives with different stakeholders for minimising protection concerns and addressing protection issues of the displaced population. 41 enumerators from above-noted eight protection cluster members were provided orientation on data collection techniques for this rapid assessment. From 28-30 June 2014, the protection cluster members conducted 296 key informant interviews in Bannu, Tank, Lakki Marwat, DI Khan, Kohat and Karak.

The following notes reflect the main findings of the rapid protection assessment, which is part of the continuous efforts of the protection cluster and its members to consult the population to know their protection concerns in an attempt to find remedies through collective efforts of cluster members and advocacy with other stakeholders.

### **I. Profile of the assessed population**

296 key informants both male and female were interviewed for the rapid assessment. Of the total respondents, 223 were male (75%) and 73 were female (25%). Age breakdown of the consulted key informants include 1% below 18 years of age, 3% above 60 years and 96% between 19-59 years of age. According to the geographical divide among respondents 15 female (8%) and 176 male (92%) were interviewed in Bannu, followed by 12 female (43%) and 16 male (57%) respondents in Lakki Marwat. The remaining breakdown of the respondents and their areas are mentioned in the following table.

Gender			
Districts	Female	Male	Grand Total
Bannu	15	176	191
D.I.Khan	12	13	25
karak		5	5
Kohat	22		22
Lakki Marwat	12	16	28
Tank	12	13	25
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>296</b>

Table 1 indicating area wise gender breakdown of respondents

## II. Findings

### Displacement patterns

According to feedback from respondents at different points in Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Karak, Kohat, D.I.Khan and Tank, the **estimated population displaced in specific villages** where IDPs are currently residing varied from 500-10000 families per area.

28% of the respondent replied that above 10,000 families have been displaced, while 18% of the respondents estimated for 5000-1000 families and 1001-2000 families respectively. Similarly, 16% estimated 2001-5000 families, 15% estimated below 500 families while 5% responded opined that 500-1000 families have arrived in the area.

The maximum figure of more than 10,000 families as mentioned by only 28% respondents is far less than the actual registration figures. However, if the number is accumulated based on all the responses, the figure of displaced families reaches to some 40,000 which is much closer to the actual number.

Estimated population arrived in the area						
Districts	1001-2000	2001 - 5000	500 - 1000	5000-10000	above 10000	below 500
Bannu	8%	10%	7%	28%	43%	3%
D.I.Khan	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Karak	0%	0%	60%	0%	0%	40%
Kohat	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Lakki Marwat	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Tank	48%	0%	0%	0%	0%	52%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>15%</b>

Table 2 reflecting area wise break down of the displaced population

47 % of responded said they arrived in the area of displacement 4-7 days ago, followed by 37% who arrived 8-14 days ago, 13% arrived in the area of displacement more than two weeks ago while 3% came out from area of origin during the last three days. The population left their homes on short **notice**, as the government has ordered evacuation of the local population from NWA due to ongoing military operation against the non- state actors.

The findings of the interviews revealed that the displacement has escalated after the break announced in the curfew. 69% of respondents indicated that the number of IDPs is on increase

while 20% responded said that it is on decrease while 11% of the respondents were of the opinion that the trends remain the same.

The major number of displaced population, which is 75% of the total, are staying in rented houses, 12% are living in spontaneous settlements mostly school buildings, 7% with relatives, 5% with families while 1% in their second houses at the area of displacement.

46% of the respondents believed that women and children constituted majority of the displaced population. 40% of the respondents believed that men and women were in majority. Similarly, 7% believed that children were in majority, 4% believed that women were in majority while 1% believed that more men and children are in displacement.

44% of the respondents believed that the families have split during displacement. However, 55% of the respondents believed otherwise. The reasons for splitting of families were told by 28% respondents as disability, 23% as elderly and 7% as other reasons. 42% of the respondents did not answer the question.

Majority of the respondents believed that they have been tracked/counted by concerned authorities as they were registered at Sadgey checkpoint. When the respondents were asked to identify who were the tracking authorities, 41 % of the respondents shared that political administration tracked them, 26 % were of the opinion that military is doing the tracking while 14% believed that FDMA is doing the tracking, while 2 % considered PDMA as tracking agency where as 18 % did not answer the question.

When the key informants were asked about receiving of any documents from authorities once registered, 61 % responded that they have received the registration token, while 37% stated that they did not receive any documentary proof from authorities about their registration.

When asked to identify main problems during the flight from NWA, 65% stated transport as the main problem, followed by unprecedented high transportation cost by 13 % of the respondents, while 6% complained about lack of water and food, while 4% mentioned lack of health services.

## **Security**

On the intention of the IDPs to stay in Bannu or move to other parts of the country from Bannu, 78% respondents shared that they will be staying in Bannu, while 21 % responded that they would move to other parts of the country specially KPK (1% each to Abbottabad, Karak and Swat; 2% to Peshawar; 3% to Kohat and 19% within Bannu to different locations) where they can live either with relatives or in rented places.

64% of the respondents feel secure in the host areas, while only 31 % preferred camp setting as more secure. Overall 98 % of the respondent stated that there was no pressure on them from any authorities to relocate to any other places.

In the rapid assessment specific questions were included to assess women perception about the security situation in the current displacement. In relation to women perception on prevailing security situation in displacement, contrary to the previous assessment wherein 54% women indicated that they do not feel secure, now 64 % feel that security at the current location is good, while 33% feel less secure than the area of origin and 4% did not feel secure at all in the area of displacement. In terms of their specific security in the area of displacement 69% feel safe in the areas while 31 % did not feel secure in crowded places.

30% women respondents pointed out lack of privacy and psychological stress as main concerns while 16% consider lack of appropriate living place/shelter as main concern. Lack of food assistance and health facilities were respectively mentioned by 6% and 5% women respondents as main concerns.

The key informants were also asked about specific protection concerns faced by women while accessing different services including WASH facilities. Lack of access to adequate WASH facilities was one of the main issues identified by 72% respondents; while 85% respondents shared that there is no harassment while accessing WASH facilities.

Due to the extreme culture conservativeness, occurrence of harassment incidents is perceived to be minimal, even if it exists to a certain degree it is highly unlikely that such incidents could be reported due to social taboo and stigma attached to the issue.

**General security situation** remains acceptable for respondents, only 4 % of interviewed persons indicated harassment at the check posts by the security official. 10% indicated that community leaders intervening in those situation. While 56% opted not to answer the question.

**Assistance**

67% of key informants interviewed reported that they have received assistance from various government authorities and other private non-profit actors, while 32% reported they did not receive any kind of support yet. Of the total, 26% mentioned to have received assistance from host communities, followed by 16% from UN agencies, 12% from government, 5% from NGO and 8% from army. 64% respondents indicated that government is committed to provide assistance while 31% think otherwise.

47% respondents reported constraints for women in accessing assistance while 52% respondents shared that they don't have any problem in accessing assistance.

**24% of the respondents informed that lack of CNIC is a major reasons for women in accessing assistance**, 9% mentioned lack of information, while 4 % respondents shared that the women were not allowed by their male family members to go and collect assistance from distribution points.

**64% of the respondents informed that many people have lost or lack identity documents.**

Are there many persons who lack or lost documentation?			
District	No	Yes	Not Answered
Bannu	15%	84%	1%
D.I.Khan	100%	0%	0%
Karak	20%	80%	0%
Kohat	0%	100%	0%
Lakki Marwat	93%	7%	0%
Tank	100%	0%	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>0%</b>

*Table 3 reflecting responses on persons who lack or lost documentation*

Majority of the respondents shared that there were no women specific assistance from any actors. **70% respondents informed lack of access to health care facilities for women in the area of displacement while 75% reported lack of appropriate health care for pregnant and lactating women.**

Do women have access to health care facilities in the current area?			
District	No	Yes	Not Answered
Bannu	65%	34%	1%
D.I.Khan	100%	0%	0%
karak	60%	40%	0%
Kohat	0%	100%	0%
Lakki Marwat	100%	0%	0%
Tank	100%	0%	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>0%</b>

Table 4 indicating response on women access to health facilities in current areas

### Specific needs of children, persons with disabilities and elderly

The rapid assessment through key informants highlighted lack of educational and recreational facilities as main concern for children (43%), followed by psychosocial stress by 27% respondents and 11% respondents mentioned separation as main issue due to sudden flight and hardship while moving out to safer places. No case of violence has been reported nor recorded by the respondents. 15% respondents reported having seen children without their parents. 60% respondents indicated family separation on the rise especially among children as a result of displacement. 59% respondents indicated unavailability of care arrangement for children who are without family support.

Is family separation on the rise?			
District	No	Yes	Not Answered
Bannu	47%	52%	1%
D.I.Khan	0%	100%	0%
karak	100%	0%	0%
Kohat	100%	0%	0%
Lakki Marwat	0%	100%	0%
Tank	0%	100%	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>1%</b>

Table 5 reflecting family separation

Majority of the displaced are older persons and person with disabilities and both are reported to be in the care of the families. 89% of the displaced population are elderly. The main concerns for elderly include lack of general assistance (25 %), followed by no specialized services (21%), lack of assistive devices (7%) and lack of psychosocial support (4%). For persons with disabilities, major concerns include no specialized services (37%), lack of psychosocial support (27%), lack of general assistance (13%) and lack of assistive devices (4%).

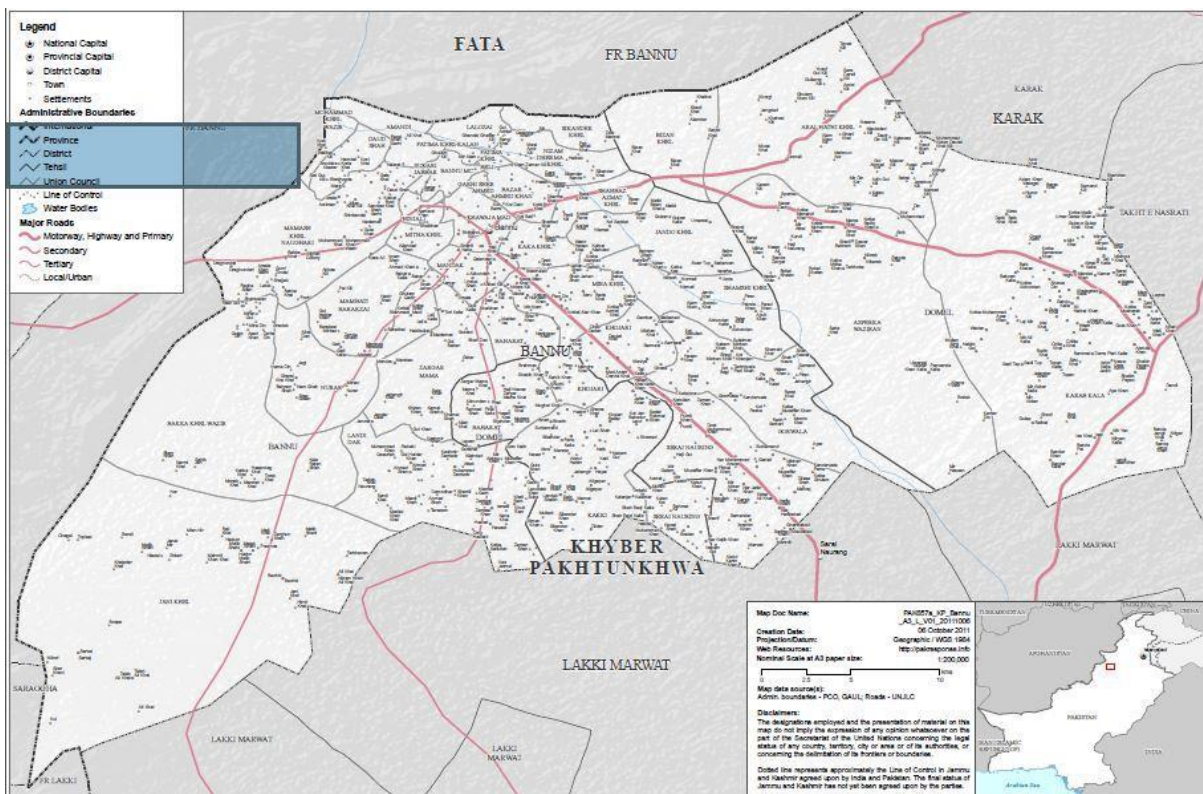
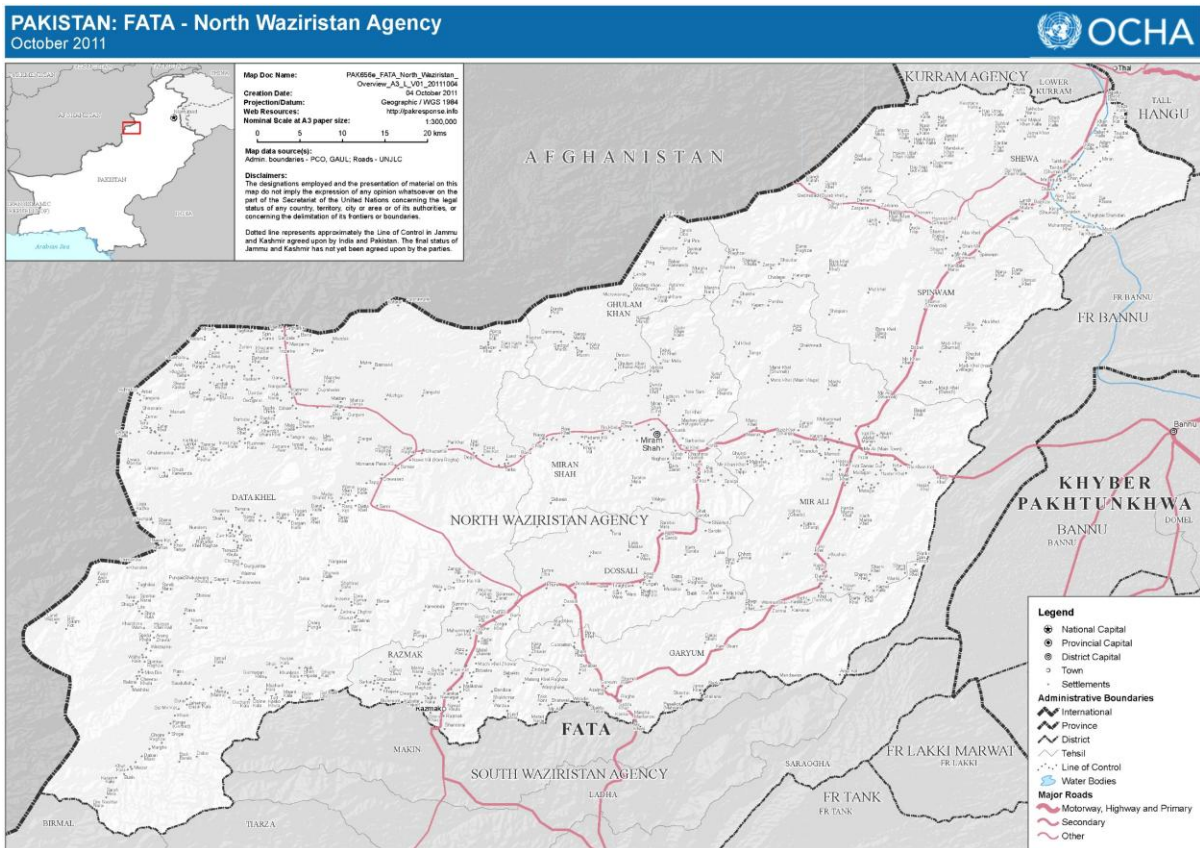
### III. Recommendations

- It is recommended to pay attention to separate registration desks, distribution queues and common community places for women to address women feeling of insecurity at crowded places;

- Recreational/learning opportunities and psychosocial support should be immediately provided to children. Establishment of protective spaces/ child friendly spaces is highly recommended to help bring children back to normal;
- As the findings indicated 30% women suffering from stress, psychosocial support should be provided in response to the stress and trauma created by displacement;
- Appropriate health care facilities for women especially for pregnant and lactating women are need in the areas of displacement;
- Every attempt should be made to address the needs of women and adolescent girls in different assistance packages;
- An elaborate mechanism should be evolved and disseminated for providing assistance to female headed households; women without effective male support and women with no CNICs;
- FDMA in consultation with SAFRON, PDMA and NADRA should urgently deploy Mobile Registration Vans at each registration centre to provide fresh CNICs/tokens so as to avoid exclusion of those IDPs who lack CNICs;
- Government and humanitarian actors should consider extending registration of IDPs and provision of food and NIFs assistance to other districts hosting IDPs from North Waziristan;
- While in principle both addresses on the CNIC should be in the notified conflict area, authorities should consider allowing registration of families from North Waziristan with one of their addresses on CNIC from North Waziristan;
- Information campaing on procedures of registration as well as regime of assistance should be strengthened;
- The existing distribution centres, registration points and grievance desks should enhance presence of female staff members to allow access to displaced women;
- In order to serve the needs of those displaced, mobile registration and grievance desks should be established to help strengthen protection monitoring, facilitate access to civil-documentation (especially CNICs), and support vulnerable persons to access registration and assistance;
- PDMA and local administration should increase coordination to ensure smooth and swift granting of project implementation NOCs to humanitarian actors to avoid delay in programmes implementation;
- In order to ensure equitable access to protection and assistance to displaced population, vulnerability assessment and protection monitoring activities need to be enhanced;
- Specialized services for older persons and persons with disabilities are needed to ensure inclusion of all persons with specific needs.



# Annex 1: Maps of North Waziristan and Bannu district



**Annex 2: Photos of NWA IDPs (credit: CERD and SRSP)**



*CERD staff conducting KI interview with a displaced person from NWA*



*SRSP team busy in KI interview at the registration point in Bannu*