

PAKISTAN | DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO DISPLACEMENT

Context: Displacement Situation

In Pakistan, several events have caused an influx of refugees from Afghanistan as well as Temporarily Dislocated Persons (TDPs), primarily from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATAs). The 1979 Russian invasion of Afghanistan caused approximately 5-6 million refugees to seek asylum in Pakistan. Around 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees still reside in Pakistan along with an estimated 1 million unregistered refugees.

Only 30 percent of the refugees live in camps, while others have relocated to urban settlements. TDPs originate from the ongoing FATA military operation against Tehreek-e-Taliban militants that started in 2006 as well as from other major operations¹, which have displaced around 447,000 people. Of these TDPs, 286,000 families have been repatriated others have settled in the neighbouring Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The impact on social services in host communities is quite severe. This is particularly the case where the number of TDPs has essentially doubled the population. The former TDPs returning to the FATAs face difficulties in obtaining access to basic social services and livelihood opportunities.



RAHA provided residents of Pankai with solar electricity panel, replacing kerosene oil lamps and candles
(Photo: UNDP Pakistan)

RESULTS

UNDP supported a joint effort between community organizations from the host communities and the Afghan refugees resulted in the construction of a 100-foot flood protection wall. The wall not only protects all community members from flooding, but also helped establish community bonds.

UNDP has implemented recovery activities in more than 250 communities and is now planning to initiate activities in the regions of Orakzai, Kurram and North Waziristan.

Over 20,000 working days have been created through cash for work programming, 400 people have completed vocational training; and over 1,500 people have benefitted from business management training.

UNDP is also providing support to the Government of Pakistan to coordinate the overall recovery process and to develop road maps for long-term reform in local governance and rule of law.

¹ One operation in 2009 in South Waziristan (2009) and North Waziristan (2014).

UNDP's main thematic areas of work

UNDP implements the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas programme (RAHA), which supports the peaceful coexistence of Afghan refugees with the local communities and helps to strengthen the Government of Pakistan's public service delivery capacities. The programme was primarily developed to improve the living standards of the more than one million Pakistanis who are hosting Afghan refugees. The specific objectives of the programme include:

- Securing greater social cohesion through community development;
- Improved livelihoods and local economies;
- Restoration of social services and infrastructure;
- Improved social protection for co-existing Pakistani and Afghan communities;
- Restoration and improvement of the environment;
- Support to returning IDPs through community-based reintegration initiatives.

In response to the Malakand crisis, UNDP has introduced a programme which focuses on increasing community resilience and improving conditions for returning TDPs. This has included construction and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure such as bridges, access roads and water supply projects. From a long-term perspective, UNDP is addressing factors that contributed to the rise of militancy in the region. UNDP's programme aims to strengthen the rule of law. Assistance is being provided for institutional and capacity development for rule of law institutions to ensure effective and timely provision of justice and security services. UNDP is engaging with key stakeholders in the province, including the judiciary, police department and other local government departments and other actors with ongoing justice initiatives.

To address the FATA crisis, UNDP has worked in partnership with the Government of Pakistan to develop a sustainable return and rehabilitation strategy for FATA, which was launched in April 2015. The Strategy has an estimated budget of \$120 million.

Humanitarian partnerships

UNDP and UNHCR have contributed core resources for the RAHA programme and secured support from donors such as the European Union and the Governments of Japan, Germany, Norway and the United States. The initial humanitarian responses to the Malakand crisis and FATA displacement were delivered with assistance from the WFP and UNHCR.

UNDP has worked closely with humanitarian partners to provide support to the TDP population both during the displacement period in the hosting areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and in the return areas of FATA. UNDP led the early recovery response in the hosting areas to foster social cohesion between the TDPs and host communities including support to increased access to basic services and livelihoods opportunities.

Since the launch of the FATA Sustainable Returns and Reintegration Strategy, more than 130,000 families have been able to return home to FATA. UNDP has been working closely with humanitarian and recovery partners to deliver support to the returnees, both through the Community Restoration Cluster and through several joint programmes with WFP, FAO and UNICEF.

UNDP-UNHCR partnership moving forward

UNDP will continue to play a lead role in ensuring the nexus between humanitarian and development activities in FATA. As lead agency for several joint programmes in return areas, UNDP will continue to provide support to the most vulnerable people. In terms of coordination, UNDP will continue to participate actively in humanitarian coordination mechanisms and ensure that recovery and development issues are addressed. UNDP will also work closely with the FATA Secretariat to strengthen the development coordination mechanism in FATA.

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