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NEWSLETTER

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Tirrah Valley returnees receive shelter repair kits to support recovery © IOM 2014

Situation Overview

The year 2014 witnessed an escalation in population movements out of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) due to the ongoing complex emergency in the northwest of the country. According to the latest figures, approximately 1.8 million people are living in temporary dislocation from their areas of origin.

In response, a large and growing number of organizations are working in areas hosting Temporarily Dislocated Persons (TDPs) from North Waziristan and Khyber Agencies. Assistance activities augment existing infrastructure and provide support such as food, shelter, water, health care, nutrition and protection services. IOM's Humanitarian Communications programme continues to disseminate critical information regarding registration and assistance for newly dislocated families, and stands ready to support returnees when required.

The Government has announced plans to initiate returns to certain areas early in 2015. In light of low seasonal temperatures and severe housing damages in some areas of return, winterization support for returnee families has been highlighted as a critical need. Humanitarian partners including IOM are working together to ensure that vulnerable groups have access to humanitarian assistance during dislocation and return.

In addition to response activities, IOM continues to strengthen the capacities of community and government stakeholders through knowledge sharing and training.

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Regular activities pertaining to resettlement, voluntary returns, reintegration, migration health services and migration management are also ongoing.

Assistance for Tirrah Valley Returnees

With support from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), IOM assisted [390 vulnerable families](#) dislocated from Tirrah Valley during 2013 to repair their houses upon return. Shelter repair support was identified as a critical need for these families due to severe housing damages and extreme weather conditions in return areas. Beneficiaries were provided shelter repair kits consisting of building materials such as girders, roofing tiles and windows. The intervention was closely coordinated with Shelter Cluster partners to ensure complementarity in targeting and response.



Smokeless stove (*chula*) trainings enable women in flood-affected areas to build stoves that are safer, healthier, fuel efficient and disaster resilient © IOM 2014

Early Recovery Shelter Programme

IOM's Early Recovery Shelter Programme for the 2012 floods in Sindh province is assisting vulnerable communities in 30 of the most affected Union Councils across five districts. The programme aims to support **15,490 vulnerable families** to construct safer shelters through funding received from multiple donors, including the UK Department of International Development (DFID), Office of the US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), Czech Republic Development Cooperation and Mahvash & Jahangir Siddiqui Foundation (MJSF).

Key programme achievements to date include:

- **9,973 safer shelters** have been completed and occupied by beneficiaries, 1,820 beneficiary households (BHHs) are working on roofs, 3,523 are working on walls and 193 are finishing the foundations of their shelters.
- Cash support for reconstruction is disbursed through community-nominated Focal Points in 3 tranches, amounting to a total value of **PKR 30,000** per family.
- **PKR 410.2 million** has been provided to BHHs in the form of performance-based cash grants to allow flexibility in design, materials and construction, ensuring that shelters are tailored to the distinct needs of each beneficiary family.
- As part of complementary shelter activities, **255 female beneficiaries** from ORS communities were trained to construct fuel efficient, smokeless stoves. Built on a raised platform to withstand flooding, the stoves offer a communal space for families to cook and eat together.
- **6,185 community training sessions** covering Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) construction techniques have been conducted, engaging 89,934 programme beneficiaries and 34,295 community members, including a total of 33,564 women.

- **Two technical refresher courses** on the use of lime to improve shelter durability were organized for IOM and implementing partner staff, and **77 monitoring and mentoring visits** for lime usage were conducted. These visits supported ongoing construction activities in various villages and provided direct mentoring to implementing partners, village focal points and beneficiary households.
- An **external evaluation** of the One Room Shelter Programme for the 2011 flood response was conducted in October 2014, with the final evaluation report anticipated in early 2015.
- To complement ongoing recovery shelter activities, a Sanitation Pilot Programme was launched with the aim to provide **96 latrines** in 12 vulnerable communities in North Sindh. Construction is currently underway in all target villages.

Shelter Coordination Activities

The Global Shelter Cluster Accountability Working Group commissioned an **independent evaluation** of the IOM-led Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster in Pakistan from 2010 to 2013. Informed by interviews with partner organizations and stakeholders, the final evaluation report reflects positively on the work of the cluster, noting effective coordination, information management and advocacy to support shelter and non-food item responses following successive floods. The recommendations and lessons learned are relevant to inform and improve future cluster responses.

The findings of a Shelter Working Group study on **Community Coping Capacities after Disasters** were also shared with partners, providing insight into self-recovery initiatives and residual needs following consecutive flood events in southern Pakistan. The study highlights shelter reconstruction as a key component of the recovery process, and compares shelter recovery in both assisted and unassisted communities. Components related to protection, food security, education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are also included to provide a broader view of assistance and recovery.

Both reports are available on the Shelter Working Group website: www.shelterpakistan.org

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Capacity Building

During the final quarter of 2014, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) trainings continued in Shikarpur, Qambar Shahdadt, Multan, Quetta, Gilgit and Peshawar as part of an ongoing inter-agency humanitarian capacity building programme led by the National Institute for Disaster Management (NIDM). These sessions engaged **262 national and international NGO staff and government participants**.

Humanitarian Communications

Mass population movements from North Waziristan and Khyber Agencies during 2014 resulted in critical needs across all sectors. In coordination with local partners, IOM's Humanitarian Communications Programme continues to support TDPs and returnees by disseminating critical information on available assistance.

Activities completed during the last quarter include the following:

- **8 Public Service Announcements (PSAs)** aired as radio campaigns with information regarding food distribution hubs, nutrition services, enlistment and registration processes and grievance desks.
- **213 awareness raising sessions** conducted focusing on return processes, Mine Risk Education (MRE), civil documentation and food packages, reaching 3,102 beneficiaries including 896 females and 64 children.
- **21 banners** and **3,000 leaflets** printed and disseminated on behalf of the Education and Nutrition Clusters.
- **600 callers** supported by Humanitarian Communications Call Centre attendants.
- **Return Intention Survey** conducted to support informed and voluntary returns, reaching **318 Bara TDP families**.
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** for Education, CCCM, Shelter, Nutrition, WASH, Protection/Gender Based Violence and Health Clusters developed in consultation with key partners.
- Meetings with cluster partners and government officials arranged to ensure coordination and raise awareness of available communication services.

Resettlement Movements and Operations

Resettlement activities continue to facilitate movements to various countries including Australia, Canada, the United States of America, Scandinavia and others. Canadian orientation sessions engaged 98 participants, and 291 participants were briefed in Australian orientation sessions during the last quarter.

Additionally, 972 Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR) and 333 Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration (AVRR) cases were supported. Overall, **2,106 individuals** were assisted under various Resettlement and Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration (AVR/R) projects.

As part of the Resettlement Programme, the US Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) interviewed **150 individuals** for the purpose of adjudicating applications for refugee status. A mission from Greece was organized to observe challenges during implementation of the AVRR project, following which IOM Pakistan delegates including the Chief of Mission visited Greece to strengthen partnerships. A **7-year National Programme for Return and Reintegration** is under development for the Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration projects.

Migration Health Services

IOM health centers in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Mirpur provided Immigration Health Assessment services to **18,204 prospective migrants and refugees**. The majority of health assessments comprised pre-departure tuberculosis screening for the United Kingdom (8,374), followed by immigration medical exams for Canada (4,906), immigration medical exams for Australia (4,316) and immigration medical exams for New Zealand (280). IOM clinics also conducted departure health check-ups for Australian-bound refugees (119) as well as DNA sampling for Australia and Canada (152). Screening of migrants for communicable diseases continued; out of 17,876 migrants and refugees screened, 11 cases of active tuberculosis were detected.

Migration Management

Following the project launch and inception meeting for IOM's "**Pilot Initiative to Monitor Readmission in Ukraine and Pakistan (MONITOR)**" funded by the European Union, the Second Monitor Meeting was held in Islamabad in December 2014. The meeting included exchange of views and best practices between Ukrainian and Pakistani government counterparts as well as IOM colleagues, EU representatives and other stakeholders. Additionally, a number of interactive case studies were conducted with the participants to model various situations that could arise in both countries during the readmission process. A visit to the Readmission Cell at the Ministry of Interior was also organized to brief officials on the current system of processing and verifying readmission applications. A broad plan of action was presented for developing and piloting a monitoring methodology in both countries.

In addition, IOM's Counter Trafficking Programme further strengthened its partnership with the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) to contribute to trainings for peacekeepers prior to their deployment for various missions in Africa.



Ukrainian and Pakistani counterparts meet to discuss readmission agreements and processes © IOM 2014