



**PAKISTAN NORTH WAZIRISTAN AGENCY  
IDP CRISIS FOLLOWING THE  
ZARB-E-ZARB OPERATION**  
Date: 27 June 2014



	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Important	Major
<b>Expected impact</b>				X	
<b>Need for international assistance</b>	Not required	Low	Moderate	Important	Urgent
			X		

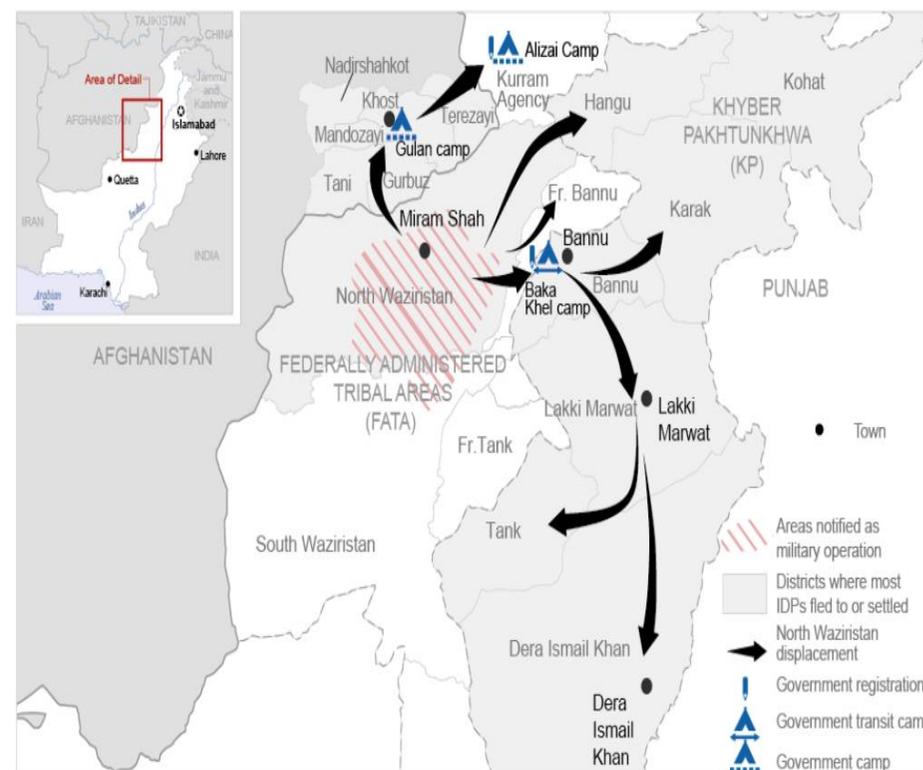
## Crisis overview

On 15 June, the Pakistani Government launched a comprehensive military operation, involving over 30,000 soldiers, in the northwestern tribal area of North Waziristan (NWA), FATA province. PM Sharif declared that the offensive was to usher in peace and to eliminate Taliban and Al Qaeda strongholds. Labeled 'Zarb-e-Azb', the offensive aims to remove the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and foreign and local militants from the region. It was launched when stop-and-start negotiations between the government and the TTP proved to have little room for compromise. On 26 June, the Pakistani army also began ground assaults. The offensive came in the wake of the 8 June attack on Karachi airport, for which TTP and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) claimed responsibility.

The region has been targeted with shelling and air raids, and at least 456,000 people, including nearly 200,000 children (42%), fled ahead of or during the ground assaults. Around 360 militants have been killed, reportedly, though the toll and identity of the victims are impossible to verify. Resistance from the insurgents has been relatively light, leading to fears that many of them may have escaped into Afghanistan.

Affected groups	Key figures
<b>Total Resident population</b>	<b>35,532,000 people</b>
• Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province	27,675,000 people
• FATA Province	4,857,000 people
<b>Total Population in conflict affected area of North Waziristan</b>	<b>840,000</b>
<b>Total Affected population</b>	<b>1,386,548 people</b>
• <b>Total newly displaced (as of 25 June) including:</b>	<b>456,548 people (36,831 families)</b>
• <b>Newly displaced women (31.5% of the new IDPs)</b>	143,996
• <b>Newly displaced children (42.2% of the new IDPs)</b>	192,442
• <b>Previously displaced in KP and FATA</b>	<b>930,000</b>

Sources: NDMA 26/06/2014, FRC 2012,



Source: OCHA 25/06/2014

## Key findings

### Anticipated scope and scale of the event:

The military offensive has been stepped up with ground operations, with the army aiming to wipe out the TTP, other Islamist militant groups and foreign militants of the Northwestern tribal region. Mass displacement and intense population movements have been taking place since 2009, heavily affecting livelihoods, security and the general infrastructure in the NWA, and negatively impacting neighbouring districts hosting large IDP communities. The situation is not expected to improve.

**Priorities for humanitarian interventions in the coming weeks/ need for humanitarian assistance:** Priority needs include protection, food, shelter, health, water, sanitation and hygiene.

**Humanitarian constraints:** A key challenge for aid agencies is access to the areas where the displaced are arriving. Security also remains a constraint for aid workers in the area. Security restrictions from the government to access these areas and extensive security checks delay operations.

## Key Information about the current displacement

Since 15 June, fresh air strikes have been launched on the northwest tribal region, causing over 455,000 people to flee. Due to ongoing insecurity, FATA province has experienced several waves of displacement since 2009. The current displacement brings the total number of displaced people from the tribal regions of the country to nearly 1.4 million (including 930,000 uprooted in various waves since 2009) (UNHCR 24/06/2014).

### New Displacement

- According to the latest government figures, 456,548 people (36,831 families) who have crossed over from NWA have been registered, including 143,996 females (31.5%) and 192,442 children (42.2%) (NDMA 26/06/2014). The actual number of displaced is likely to be higher, since official figures only count people registered with the authorities (AFP, 19/06/2014). The registered displaced are entitled to distributions. Newly displaced are being registered in Saidgai, as well as Khurram and Alizai in Kurram Agency to the north-east of NWA (UNHCR 24/06/2014; FDMA 24/06/2014).
- Most of the families have sought refuge in different parts of Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Dera Ismail Khan, Karak, Kohat and Tank in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. There are also reports of families arriving in Bakkar and Fatehjang in Punjab province and in Balochistan province, as well as in the Afghani provinces of Khost and Paktika (UNHCR 24/06/2014; OCHA, 18/06/2014).
- A relief camp has been set up in Baka Khel, Bannu district. Following this military operation, the Sindh government decided it will not allow IDPs to enter the province for budget reasons (DAWN, 17/06/2014).
- IDPs in Bannu are facing hardships due to overwhelmed facilities. As of 26 June, only 27 families have chosen to live in a Government-established camp in Bannu (NDMA 26/06/2014), while the rest are reportedly staying with friends and relatives, have rented houses or are staying in public buildings such as schools. IDPs are avoiding the camp due to their cultural practices, lack of privacy and services in the camp (OCHA 25/06/2014). Furthermore, the camp seems to be managed by FDMA and the Army, added to TTP threats to IDPs settling in camps.
- In Togh Sarab in Hangu District, nearly all IDPs left the camp after threats from non-state armed actors and an attack resulted in injuries to four people. The camp houses approximately 7,000 people displaced from Kurram and Orakzai agencies. The government increased the security in and around the camp, resulting in some 3,077 people returning to the camp. The remaining 3,923 people are spread in the neighbouring areas (OCHA 24/06/2014).
- The Balochistan Government have deployed troops to the border with South Waziristan to check the influx of displaced (DAWN, 17/06/2014).
- Security check posts at Ghtoki, Hyderabad and Karachi have been set up to check the influx of IDPs (ECHO 24/06/2014).

- Media reports indicate that NWA IDPs have started arriving in Sindh, where presently there is an acute food and livelihood crisis due to water scarcity and drought, as well as a lack of access to health services (ECHO 24/06/2014; ACAPS 2014).

### Refugees in Afghanistan (Khost and Paktika provinces):

- Reports indicate that over 14,000 families have reached Afghanistan's Khost and Paktika provinces (OCHA 25/06/2014). Insecurity in these two provinces of Afghanistan creates challenges for accessing some affected families, however humanitarian actors are working in partnership with local officials and communities to ensure that as many vulnerable people as possible are reached with assistance (IOM 26/06/2014).

### Past displacement:

- NWA has been hit by several waves of displacement since 2009 due to insecurity and increased violence, including military airstrikes targeted at militants (OCHA 20/03/2014). Most recently, intensive military operations in January and February-March caused massive displacement. Restricted access made it impossible to accurately assess casualty numbers or displacement figures.
- A week before the current military offensive, it was reported that close to one million people remain displaced and are in need of assistance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA provinces. The majority (96%) reside outside camps in Peshawar, Dera Ismail Khan and Kohat, while 4% resides in IDP camps in Tough Sorai, Jalozai, and New Durrani (UNHCR, 31/05/2014).
- In February, 25,000 people fled, of which 5,000 had returned by March 2014. A similar pattern of displacement occurred in January (OCHA 20/03/2014).

### History of conflict and relevant stakeholders:

- Since 2004, an armed conflict has been ongoing involving Pakistan and armed militant groups such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Lashkar-e-Islam (LeI), Tehreek-e-Nafaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammadi (TNSM), Al Qaeda, Baloch liberation armed movements and elements of organized crime.
- Following US intervention in Afghanistan, in April 2009 Pakistani Taliban and other jihadi forces drove deeper into the heart of Pakistan, methodically expanding their presence from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) to Northwest Frontier Province's (NWFP) Swat district. Emboldened by successive "peace" deals with the military in FATA, their advance into NWFP's settled areas also followed a military devised peace deal, backed by NWFP's Awami National Party-led government in February 2009 and reluctantly ratified by President Asif Ali Zardari in mid-April the same year (ICG 05/05/2009).

**Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP):** TTP is an umbrella organization of various Islamist militant groups based in FATA province along the Afghan border. Its objectives include, resistance against the Pakistani state, enforcement of their interpretation of sharia and a plan to unite against NATO-led forces in Afghanistan. The TTP is not directly affiliated with the Afghan Taliban movement, despite both being predominantly

Pashtun. The TTP almost exclusively targets elements of the Pakistani state. In May, after months of infighting, the Mehsud faction split from the TTP. Led by Khalid Mehsud, the faction is reportedly made up around 2,600 men and controls a large arsenal of modern weapons (ACAPS 2014).

**Al Qaeda:** TTP has close ties to Al Qaeda, sharing both financial and military resources. TTP draws ideological guidance from Al Qaeda, while Al Qaeda relies on the TTP for a safe have in the Pashtun areas along the Afghan-Pakistani border (NYT 1/09/2010).

**Peace negotiations:** No tangible progress in peace talks between the TTP and Government has been witnessed in the past months. Since the beginning of 2014, there have been stop-and-start peace negotiations, partially brokered by the tribal *jirga*, including prisoner swaps and the brokering of several ceasefires. In February, the Government indicated that Pakistani military will retaliate for every act of terrorism by attacking the headquarters of militants along the Afghan border (ACAPS 2014).

**Operation Zarb-e-Zarb:** The military claims that in the latest offensive, named "Zarb-e-Azb", 361 militants have been killed, however the number and identity of the victims have been impossible to verify. Resistance from the insurgents has been relatively light, leading to fears that many of them may have escaped across the rugged, mountainous border into Afghanistan (GulfNews 26/06/2014).

**International and neighbouring countries relationship to the conflict:** The United States (US) has carried out several drone strikes in FATA province. International observers state that drone strikes seem to be winding down as a result of stricter rules, diplomatic sensitivities, and the changing nature of the Al Qaeda threat. US officials have declined to comment. Officials stated in February that US drone strikes had reduced sharply following peace talks with the Taliban. Prime Minister Sharif has repeatedly called for an end to the strikes, though the Obama Administration has indicated that it would continue to carry out strikes if immediate threats to the US were identified. Around 340 drone attacks have taken place since 2004, killing an estimated 2,200 people in FATA (ACAPS 2014).

### Humanitarian constraints

**Access:** A key challenge for aid agencies is access to the areas where the displaced are arriving. The UN and partners have called for full and unimpeded access to the affected populations to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid (UNHCR 24/06/2014). Access to Bannu and its frontier region is still limited. Lack of access hampers the carrying out of detailed assessments in camps and host communities (OCHA 25/06/2014). While the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) requested for assistance, there are and will remain restrictions to particular regions to humanitarian actors. The Government is limiting access by on the basis of insecurity, and is imposing armed escort and security clearances (Non Objection Certificates) (PI 06/2014).

- **Security:** Security continues to be a constraint and it is hoped the two government entities, PDMA and FDMA will facilitate smooth travel of implementing partners to displacement areas (OCHA 25/06/2014).
- **Security Checks:** Trucks carrying supplies face delays due to stringent security checks (OCHA 25/06/2014).

## Crisis Impact

### Impact on access of affected population to essential services

#### Food Security:

- To cover the current case load of over 36,800 families, 4,587 tons food per month are needed (OCHA 25/06/2014).
- Livelihoods have been badly disrupted in areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA affected by complex emergencies. Most IDPs rely on negative coping strategies or income support. Increasing demand for food and NFIs has also resulted in massive inflation, which further aggravates the food security situation. Prior to the current displacement Food prices have increased by 8.8% (FAO/ GIEWS 30/04/2014).

#### WASH:

- According to the initial WASH assessments conducted by local partners and available secondary data, water and sanitation facilities are immediately needed in formal and informal camps, particularly in schools and hosting communities where IDPs have taken refuge (OCHA 25/06/2014).
- The general hygiene condition in the displaced population is also very poor and the possibility of any WASH related disease outbreak cannot be ruled out (OCHA 25/06/2014).
- Prior to the current conflict and displacement, an estimated 690,000 people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and FATA, largely IDPs and returnees, were in need of assistance in accessing safe drinking water. There is a need to improve knowledge of household water treatment among non-camp IDPs and returnees (OCHA 20/02/2014).
- The WASH cluster lacks funds for the response of expected caseload of 500,000 IDPs (OCHA 25/06/2014).

#### Health:

- There is no presence of health actors in the ground, which hinders prioritisation of response. However considering the large numbers of displaced and especially children living in very harsh conditions may trigger epidemics. Vaccination is a priority (EPI) and in particular measles (PI 26/06/2014).
- Access to primary and secondary health care.
- Delivery Kits are in limited quantity and stock needs to be replenished (OCHA 25/06/2014).

- Larger families with an average family size of 13.5 are residing in small houses, unhygienic practices with food and drinking water may have important public health ramifications (OCHA 25/06/2014).
- **Polio:** Pakistan had almost as many polio cases in the first four months of 2014 as in the entire 2012, and nine times as many as in the same period in 2013 (WHO, 14/06/2014). NWA is considered a reservoir of polio, as vaccinations were banned in the area by the Taliban. Health officials are rushing to vaccinate IDP children from NWA. In May, Government officials warned that security problems mean that nearly 370,000 children are likely to miss out on the polio vaccination drive in NWA, South Waziristan, Mohmand, and Khyber. Around 50,000 doses of polio have been provided to the areas of displacement. According to authorities, over 260,000 children in North and South Waziristan are at risk (AFP, 26/05/2014).

### Nutrition:

- With reference to nutritional needs, an agreement has been signed with the Department of Health (DOH) KP for provision of emergency nutrition services including community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), IYCF (Infant young child feeding) and multi-micronutrient supplementation among 6-59 months old children and pregnant and lactating women (The News 26/06/2014).

### Shelter:

- From the onset of the displacement, FDMA has established DPs Registration and Facilitation point at Saidgai Check Post on Bannu-Miranshah Road. As of 26 June, a total of 456,548 individuals (36,831 families) had been registered (NDMA 26/06/2014). As of 26 June only 27 families (227 people) have chosen to live in the Main camp in at Baka Khel in Bannu District (NDMA 26/06/2014).
- Assessments of previous displacement show that 82% of the IDPs seek shelter in rented accommodation, 17% among families and friends, and 1% in community centres and schools, with a few families living in tents (OCHA 20/03/2014).
- There is a need to ensure freedom of movement of IDPs, as well as a need to issue tokens to individuals without identity cards to allow registration and assistance (OCHA 25/06/2014).

### Protection:

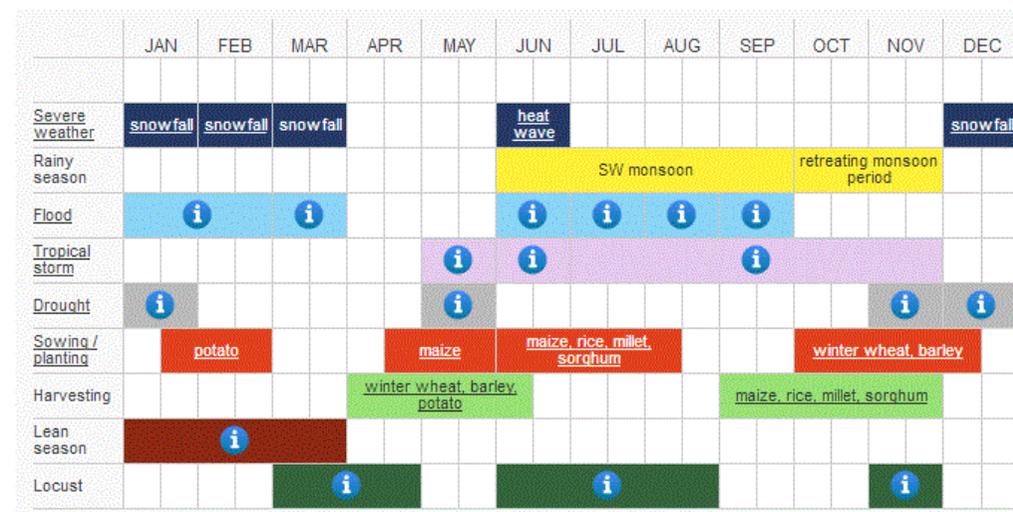
- An estimated 1.08 million people are in need of protection. This group largely consists of IDPs and returnees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA. Women, children, the disabled and the elderly need referral assistance and specialised protection in displacement and returnee areas (OCHA 20/02/2014).

## Potential Aggravating Factors

### Seasonal information

Each year, in FATA the monsoon rainy season occurs between June and September, the levels of major water channels in the area rise sharply, sometimes causing

extreme flood disasters. In the past 30 years, heavy rains in monsoon season have taken place in all agencies of FATA, with the heaviest rains most likely to occur during the months of July and August. The impact of floods in 2010 and internal conflicts has severely affected the lives of local communities in FATA, including livestock, irrigation, health, education, forestry, roads, bridges and communication. The most affected of all these sectors is agriculture, since agricultural crops, vegetables and fruits are unable to find access to the main markets, which has led to severe financial implications for local farmers (FDMA 2013).



(Source: WFP, retrieved 26/06/2014)

### Other vulnerability factors

Anger about problems with food distribution and shortages is causing tensions, with people protesting and blocking the main road from Bannu to KP's provincial capital Peshawar. Local Government Officials confirm that more food distributions will be opened soon (AFP, 24/06/2014).

## Response Capacity

### Local and National Response Capacity

The government has assigned lead role to Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) for rehabilitation of the IDPs. NDMA is providing necessary support to FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authority KP (PDMA KP), Pakistan Army and other Stakeholders for effective management of the humanitarian crisis (NDMA 26/06/2014). The government had made a formal request to the UN for assistance (UNHCR 24/06/2014).

## International Response Capacity

Although OCHA states that humanitarian partners are supporting the Government in provision of life-saving assistance to the IDPs (OCHA 25/06/2014), the only known presence of an International NGO responding currently to the crisis is NRC (PI 06/2014).

## Key Characteristics of Host Population and Area

- **Demographic profile:** According to the most recent census in 1998, the total population of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was 17,743,645 and the total population of FATA was 3,176,331 (PBS 1998). However, with an annual growth rate for KP of 2.82% (compared to the annual national growth rate for Pakistan of 2.69%), (GoKP), it is expected that the population of KP in 2014 has risen to more than 27.6 million, and the population in FATA to be around 4.8 million. In 1998, the total population of North Waziristan was 361,246 (FATA 1998). However, according to newer estimates, the population in 2012 was estimated to be around 840,000 (FRC 2012).
- **Key WASH statistics:** Official records show that 56% of the population is supplied with drinking water but less than a third of this supply is in the form of individual connections to households. In rural areas, women are required to travel long distances to fetch water. Sanitation facilities are even less widely available and more difficult to assess. Overall, it appears that only 10% of the population has access to adequate sanitation in the form of toilets, sewerage, drainage and solid waste disposal (UNHABITAT 2007).
- **Key health statistics:** There is only one health facility per 50 square kilometres of area serving a large clientele in the porous border regions, only one doctor for every 7,670 persons, and modern health care practices are not widely accepted. Infant mortality is estimated at 87 per 1,000 births and maternal mortality is thought to be greater than 600 deaths per 100,000 live births (FATA Directorate of Health, 2006; GoNWFP, 2005a; GoNWFP, 2005a; GoNWFP, 2005b; GoP, 1998a; GoP, undated [b] in UNHABITAT 2007).
- **Food insecurity figures:** An estimated 1.21 million people, almost exclusively IDPs and returnees, were in critical need of food assistance in February (OCHA 20/02/2014). An estimated 58% of Pakistan's population was considered food insecure in November 2013 (National Nutrition Survey). Seven districts faced IPC Phases 3 (Crisis) and 4 (Emergency) (ACAPS 12/2013)
- **Nutrition:** According to the Pakistan Nutrition Survey (PNS) 2011, nutrition was highlighted as an area of immediate concern (FSC 01/2014).