



FAO'S ROLE IN THE PAKISTAN 2008-2009 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN REVISION

May 2009

Background

In April 2009, an escalation in the fighting between Government forces and armed groups in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province (NWFP) resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. By the end of May 2009, over 1.8 million people had fled. While some have been housed in camps, the vast majority (85 percent) are staying with host families in districts adjoining the conflict areas.

The massive increase in internally displaced persons (IDPs), combined with soaring food prices over the last 18 months, have resulted in a perilous food security situation in northwest Pakistan. The Government, United Nations (UN) agencies and non-governmental organizations are providing for responding to immediate life-saving needs and examining ways to prepare for, and support, the return of these displaced households once the fighting has ended.

As the military operations continue, population flows will likely remain erratic with simultaneous returns and displacement within the region. These extremely vulnerable households are also expected to be affected by weather-triggered hazards related to July and August monsoon rains.

In order to support these activities, the UN has revised the 2008-2009 Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan, which was launched in September 2008 in the aftermath of the monsoon floods and increased inter-tribal fighting in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The Plan had previously been revised in January 2009 following the spread of the conflict to NWFP.

Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

Agriculture is the main livelihood strategy for over 80 percent of poor, rural households in NWFP, the population most affected by the ongoing conflict. The majority of IDP and host families combine smallholder crop production with livestock rearing (typically up to three cows or buffalo and five to eight sheep or goats).

During the winter *rabi* season, wheat is the main crop and is primarily used for household food consumption. Vegetables are grown throughout the year, particularly during the summer *kharif* season and are an important source of both nutrition and income for household members.

The sudden onset of the conflict led many of the affected households to abandon their livestock and leave their fields at a critical time in the agricultural calendar as wheat should be harvested in May and now lies wilting in the fields.

Previous experience and preliminary assessments from conflict-affected and IDP settlement areas highlight the importance of developing an integrated food security strategy combining direct food assistance and agricultural production-based food supply from the outset. A key priority area within the revised PHRP is to implement projects that support the recovery of livelihoods in order to immediately avert or minimize additional loss of life and damage to social and economic assets.

In Bajaur agency, where IDPs have begun to return to their places of origin, most households are struggling to rebuild their livelihoods as they lack appropriate agricultural inputs and financial resources. It is essential that these returnees receive

immediate assistance in order to ensure a sustainable and effective returns process.



FAO response

The agriculture cluster, under the leadership of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), aims to protect and restore the food production and livelihoods of IDPs and host families in conflict-affected areas. In close collaboration with the Government, the cluster identified three focus areas under the revised PHRP:

- immediate assistance for agricultural production and enhancement of the food security of poor and vulnerable IDP households and host families affected by the armed conflict in NWFP;
- immediate support to returning IDPs in Bajaur agency to ensure the rapid restoration of food security and agriculture-based livelihoods; and
- immediate relief support to agriculture-based livelihoods and the rapid restoration of the food security of the affected households in Swat, Dir and Buner (when the situation allows).

As part of the **May 2009 Revised Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan**, FAO is seeking **USD 15.7 million** to assist vulnerable IDP and host families and enable them to restart their agriculture-based livelihoods.





FAO has identified a three-pronged approach as the most suitable to rebuild agriculture-related livelihoods while fostering self-reliance among the affected population, thus reducing aid dependency. The three focus areas are to provide: (i) immediate agriculture assistance to IDPs and host families; (ii) immediate support to returning IDPs in Bajaur agency (FATA); and (iii) support for the rapid restoration of livelihoods to returnees in Swat, Dir and Buner.

Focus area 1: Immediate assistance for agricultural production and enhancement of the food security of poor and vulnerable IDP households and host families affected by the armed conflict in NWFP

Immediate assistance for food security, nutritional needs and livelihood sustenance to the vulnerable IDPs outside camps and the host families affected by the armed conflict in Swat, Bajaur, Buner and Dir

Objectives: To provide livelihood assistance to 38 000 host families and IDPs dependent on agriculture by:

- distributing critical agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, tools) and animal feed and supporting and restocking poultry and small ruminants for enhanced food security;
- protecting and restoring the productivity of livestock by providing vaccination and medicines for de-worming small and large ruminants; and
- restoring forestry and irrigation services

Beneficiaries: 38 000 households (266 000 individuals) with multiple inputs

Funds Requested: USD 2 570 000

Immediate assistance to build capacities of IDPs in camps in agriculture-related activities

Objectives: To provide training to female IDPs in kitchen gardening, dairy processing, nutrition and livestock raising; and build the capacities of male IDPs in improved irrigation techniques, crop and post-harvest technologies

Beneficiaries: 8 000 households in IDP camps (about 50 000 people)

Funds Requested: USD 428 000

Focus area 2: Immediate support to returning IDPs in Bajaur agency to ensure the rapid restoration of food security and agriculture-based livelihoods

Immediate support to restore the food security and agriculture-based livelihoods of food insecure and vulnerable farmers affected by armed conflict in Bajaur agency

Objectives: To assist 60 400 food insecure and vulnerable conflict-affected households by:

- distributing critical agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, tools) and animal feed and supporting and restocking poultry and small ruminants for enhanced food security;
- protecting and restoring the productivity of livestock by providing vaccination and medicines for de-worming small and large ruminants; and
- assisting in the restoration of forestry and irrigation services

Beneficiaries: 60 400 vulnerable families (386 560 individuals) affected by armed conflict (two cropping seasons)

Funds Requested: USD 4 270 000

Focus area 3: Immediate relief support to agriculture-based livelihoods and therapid restoration of food security for affected households in Swat, Dir and Buner (when the situation allows)

Immediate assistance to restore the food security and agriculture-based livelihoods of food insecure and vulnerable farmers affected by armed conflict in Swat, Dir and Buner

Objectives: To assist 236 700 food insecure and vulnerable conflict-affected households (in two cropping seasons) by:

- distributing critical agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, tools) and animal feed and supporting and restocking poultry and small ruminants for enhanced food security;
- protecting and restoring the productivity of livestock by providing vaccination and medicines for de-worming small and large ruminants;
- assisting in the restoration of forestry and irrigation services; and
- supporting the recovery of horticulture enterprises

Beneficiaries: 236 700 households (over 1.5 million individuals)

Funds Requested: USD 8 390 000

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