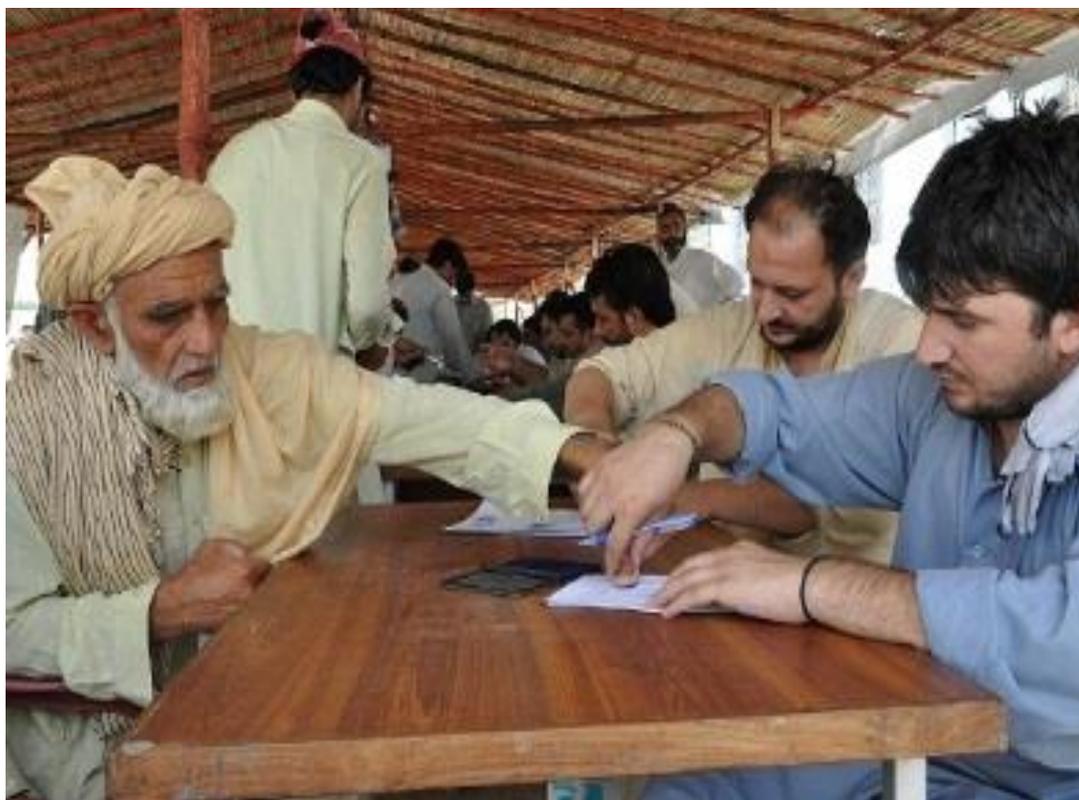


## North Waziristan: A Note on Registration of the Unregistered IDP Families

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### Overview

Registration of the displaced North Waziristan population started on 18 June 2014 at two points established by the authorities at Saidgai check post in Bannu and Alizai check post in Kurram Agency; however, those families who had fled prior to the start of the military operation (15 June) in North Waziristan (FATA) had not been captured for registration by the Government/military authorities which made them ineligible for receiving any kind of assistance (cash, food, non-food) from the government and the humanitarian actors at large.

Amidst much pressure from the humanitarian community, a decision was taken by the Government to open registration for the unregistered families making them eligible for all types of assistance.

The Protection Cluster conducted a Rapid Protection Assessment between 28-30 June with the help of 41 enumerators from cluster partner organizations 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.

Through 296 key informant interviews in Bannu, Tank, Lakki Marwat, DI Khan, Kohat and Karak, initial findings indicated women lacking CNIC registration; separation of families; increased psychological stress particularly in women and children; unavailability of specialized health services for females; increased transportation charges; and a lack of specialized services for vulnerable groups.

**24% of the respondents stated lack of CNIC as a major reason for women unable to access 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. 47% respondents reported constraints for women in accessing assistance. **64% of the population has lost or lack identity documents.**

## Registration of Unregistered IDP Families

As of 8 July, FDMA registered 71,654 displaced families (852,495 individuals) comprising of 227,212 males, 252,721 females, and 372,562 children (*source: PDMA/9 July DSR*).

On 1 July FDMA decided to register the remaining unregistered families and requested UNHCR for support in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of registration. In addition to Saidgai registration point, three more registration centres were established in Bannu; Commerce College Bannu, Government High School # 4, and Bannu Sugar Mill. Registration of the unregistered NWA IDP families started on 3 July simultaneously at all three registration centres in Bannu.



On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of registration the Commissioner Bannu and the Brigade Commander visited the Bannu Commerce College registration centre and expressed confidence in UNHCR's support of registration activities.

Although UNHCR was given short notice for arrangements, and FDMA was unable to run a broadly announced information campaign, large number of IDPs somehow received the message and started queuing up the night before outside each registration centre. 120 volunteer staff, majority of them students from local colleges were hired on daily wages for the exercise and deployed in the three centres under close supervision of UNHCR staff.



Protection cluster partners also nominated volunteers to support UNHCR in the registration process in Bannu and Peshawar to ensure that displaced families are not at risk of exclusion from receiving protection and assistance due to lack of registration.

UNHCR advised registration partner, SRSP to have female staff present in the verification and registration process, keeping in mind cultural sensitivities and the genuine needs of female IDPs.

UNHCR Field Protection team visited the Bannu Sugar Mill registration centre for the IDPs of North Waziristan. Although the registration centre was very crowded, the registration process was functioning smoothly.

UNHCR asked the registration teams to ensure that persons with disabilities, female heads of households, the elderly and other vulnerable IDPs are given priority and are properly managed. Registration teams were also sensitized to pay attention to children headed households, separated children and unaccompanied minors.

Partners are in close coordination with FDMA over ongoing registration and related issues; UNHCR not only encourages strong coordination between partners but emphasizes swift delivery of services to the persons of concern.



Staff is increased at all the three registration point on the basis of the number of IDPs coming for registration. On average, there are about 30-40 registration officers and 8-9 screening desk officers at all 3 registration points in Bannu. Security and general management of all 3 registration points is by and large satisfactory.

As of 8 July, 29,800 unregistered IDP families (372,939 individuals) were registered at the three different registration points in Bannu (source: FDMA/8 July DSR). 8 July was the 6<sup>th</sup> day of registration in Bannu and a total of 2,419 IDP

families (17,442 individuals) were registered at all three registration points as compared to the first 3 days of registration when a record number of 106,008, 120,009 and 60,012 individuals were registered respectively. 2,265 unregistered IDP families were also registered in Hayatabad, Peshawar as of 8 July (source: PDMA/9 July DSR).

The pace of registration has somewhat reduced on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of registration (8 July) - although the number of individuals being registered is still high. Continuous direction to the registration staff on the concept of a nuclear family (as opposed to an extended family) has resulted in a family size average of 9.



These high registration numbers raise a valid concern of duplication of family members as part of extended families. A logical next step would be to repeat the registration data exercise once the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of registration is complete to update the data and eliminate duplication in family members/individuals. At the HQ level, NADRA is verifying/screening the NWA IDP caseload by applying filters to check for duplication especially within the family; at the field level, NADRA also verifies authenticity of CNICs with their database.



According to FDMA, it has been noted that most of the displaced persons both individuals and head of the families are registering themselves and there isn't any means for verification on the ground; either a registered family is the real nuclear family or an individual showing himself as a nuclear family. As such, it is proposed to stop registration in 2-3 days in order to check the registration of individuals rather than families.

UNHCR has also been asked to assist in the registration exercise of unregistered NWA IDP families in Peshawar at Government College of Commerce and Management Sciences No.2 near Haji Camp, Phase VII Hayatabad Peshawar that started on 7 July (source: FDMA).

## Observations and Actions

- ✚ Most male heads of the families were overseas for work and their womenfolk were showing up for registration without CNICs. Lack of CNIC for registration by most of the female Head of Households (widows or women with husbands' overseas) did not allow them to register and claim assistance. In order to overcome this major problem, NADRA mobile registration vans (MRV) need to be present at each registration centre for fast track registration process or a NADRA counter for IDPs should be established at Bannu (NADRA office) and the process of obtaining CNICs should be simplified for the IDPs.
- ✚ NADRA and UNHCR Protection partner EHSAR discussed the issue of providing CNICs for IDPs lacking civil documentation. According to NADRA, NWA IDPs are currently not provided with (new) CNICs; the matter was under consideration of Ministry of SAFRON although IDPs with expired and/or lost CNICs were facilitated. EHSAR also shared its referral system/procedure with NADRA and both parties agreed to maintain strong coordination and communication for effective solutions to IDPs' registration concerns. EHSAR also holds regular coordination meetings with FDMA and SRSP to discuss registration related issues.
- ✚ The IDPs and registration staff alike were not clear on the difference between a 'nuclear' family and 'extended' family; interviews with 10 to 15 IDP heads of families at the registration hub, and assessment through interviews established that most of the IDPs were not aware of the concept of a nuclear family and one household. Culturally the IDPs consider one household as a family and present themselves as individuals of one family which reflects a large family size. After interviewing dozen of IDPs separately, this was found not to be the case.
- ✚ UNHCR Field Protection team explained the concept of nuclear and extended family to the registration staff and especially to the IDPs; they also explained to the IDPs the importance of providing exact family member data for the registration database and future assistance.
- ✚ Persons with specific needs (PWSN) were not properly facilitated by staff members re the registration process and were not given priority treatment. Protection partner EHSAR was briefed on dealing with PWSN on priority basis during the registration process and otherwise. EHSAR was further requested to guide female Head of Households on obtaining (new) CNICs which would enable them for registration and assistance.
- ✚ Partner EHSAR recorded 204 grievances at the three registration points and guided some 1,200 IDPs on registration processes as well as facilitating them at registration between 4-8 July; females were also informed on the importance of and processes involved in obtaining CNICs. With the support of EHSAR, SRSP and FDMA established separate female desks at the registration points.
- ✚ The white registration form previously provided by FDMA at the registration desk is no longer accepted; it has been replaced by a blue/green token. There were many cases of lost registration forms which causes problems for IDPs in accessing assistance; the majority of the IDPs lack civil documentation especially females. IDPs with lost registration forms should be facilitated by issuing them duplicate registration forms.
- ✚ Making CNICs for the affected of the conflict area is a lengthy and arduous process – every individual from FATA requires attestation from two tribal elders and the political administration to submit a CNIC application. The political administration and the tribal elders (maliks) should be available at the NADRA point to facilitate IDPs accordingly in obtaining CNICs.
- ✚ Families having NADRA's Form B (specifically for children) are not registered/facilitated at the registration points. Dual CNIC cardholders are strictly denied at the registration points; IDPs that have a current address of North Waziristan should be entertained at the registration point as they have been directly affected by the ongoing military operation. Children headed and female headed families were rejected at the registration points despite having legal documents and cases of CNIC token photocopies have also not been entertained by FDMA for registration.