



Displacement, Livelihood and Food Security

A joint bulletin by IRC and WFP based on IVAP (IDP Vulnerability Assessment and Profiling) survey

November 2013

Highlights

- As per the findings of the survey until end of October 2013, the displaced families had major disruption to their livelihoods. A significant shift was seen from relatively stable sources of income such as agriculture and business to unstable, casual wage labour.
- As a result, the displaced families are highly vulnerable to food insecurity. The majority (57%) fall within the borderline food consumption group, while 39% have acceptable food consumption.
- Food, shelter and livelihood support are the three most important needs for the displaced families in their current residence.
- Most displaced families intend to return to their home, but it largely depends on the overall security and livelihood environment. There is need for continued assistance.

Introduction and background

A considerable number of people displaced from FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) due to insecurity - estimated at more than a million - have been residing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and some agencies of FATA for the last few years. These displaced populations are one of the most vulnerable groups due to loss of their livelihoods and the challenges of adjusting to a new environment and often very meager living conditions. IVAP (IDP Vulnerability Assessment and Profiling) is a joint initiative by the humanitarian community led by IRC. IRC and WFP have been working closely on IVAP activities since the very beginning. The first

comprehensive census and profiling of IDPs was conducted in 2010 (IVAP-I). This was followed by subsequent assessments in 2011 and 2012. In mid-2013, a new activity (IVAP-IV) was initiated for a new round of re-census and profiling of all displaced families, in order to have the latest information including their current locations, population size and living situation. The instrument used includes, questions on family characteristics, and information related to various sectors including livelihood and food security. The survey thus far only includes families living outside of IDP camps.

This bulletin presents the food security and livelihoods findings of 41,231 IDP families covered by the IVAP survey until the end of October 2013. The details of the families covered by location are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of families covered by the survey by host district as of 31 Oct, 2013

Host district	No. of families
DI Khan	10,294
Hangu	537
Kohat	13,129
Peshawar	17,271
Total	41,231

Situation overview

The security situation in FATA continues to be a key concern, resulting in continued displacement. Households which have been displaced have limited livelihood opportunities increasing their vulnerability to food insecurity. This is more so for those living off-camp who often go unseen and are not covered by formal benefits (except for the food assistance) provided to those living inside the camps. A significant number of off-camp IDPs are highly constrained by their lack of income – many of them depend on unpredictable and meager daily wage labor barely adequate to meet their food and other basic needs.

Profile of the displaced families

Among the families surveyed, the average family size was found to be 5.22¹. The majority of the heads of these families possess legal documentation (96% possess CNIC) and out of the 41,231 families surveyed, 1,311 were identified as child or female-headed.

A significant proportion (14.1%) of these off-camp IDPs reportedly have chronic illnesses among them, kidney problems (20%), arthritis (13%) and Hepatitis B & C (9%). About 4% were found to be physically disabled, the most common disabilities being visual disabilities (31%), hearing disabilities (15%), paralysis (9%) and psycho-social trauma (8%).

¹ For the purposes of humanitarian assistance, family size is considered as the size of nuclear family (meaning a couple and their children only), which is usually smaller than the household size which would include all members of a joint family sharing the same kitchen and living sharing income and expenditure

Table 2: General family information

Average family size	5.22
Age breakdown (%)	
2 years or less	8%
3-4 years	8%
5-18 years	42%
19-35 years	25%
36-50 years	10%
Gender breakdown	
Male	51%
Female	49%
Individuals with stated vulnerability	
Orphan/ half orphan	1.1%
Physically disabled	3.7%
Mentally disabled	0.6%
Widow	1.1%
Chronically ill	14.1%

Origin of IDPs

Khyber, Orakzai and South Waziristan are the three most common agencies of origin among the displaced. These three agencies contribute to 83% of the total displaced population, while Khurram contributes to about 10%, and the remainder comes from other agencies and Frontier Regions. Most of the displaced families in DI Khan are originally from South Waziristan, while those in Kohat originated in Orakzai, and those in Peshawar were mostly from Khyber Agency. Among the families surveyed so far in Hangu, most of them were found to be from Orakzai. Most of the IDPs seem to have arrived in host communities during the period from 2008-2009, with almost 59% of families arriving during these two years. Only 15% of the total arrived in 2013. Peshawar in particular was shown to have a large share of arrivals in 2013, with 29% of all families there reporting their arrival this year.

Figure 1: Proportion of displaced families who arrived in different years by host district

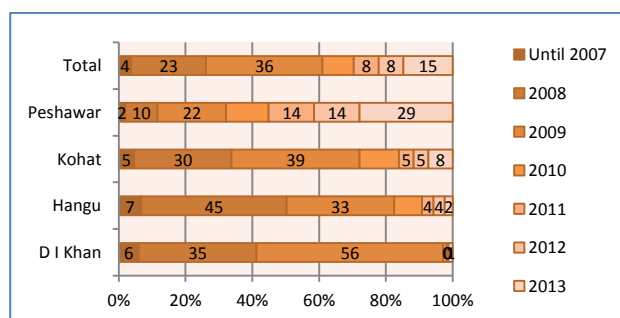


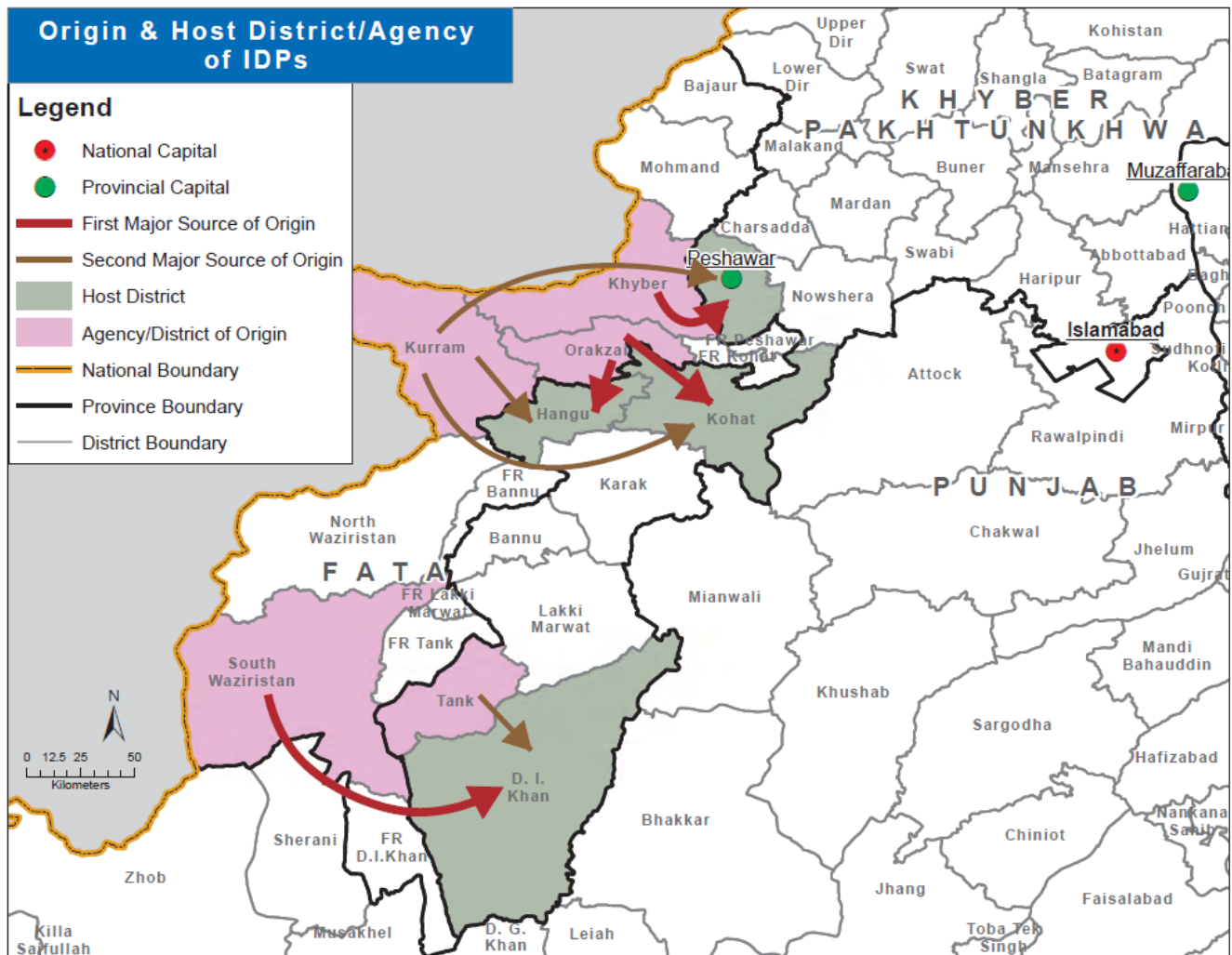
Table 3: Origin of IDPs by Agency/District

Host District	Agency/District of origin					Total
	Khyber	Orakzai	South Waziristan	Khurram	Other	
DI Khan	0	0	10,179	9	93	10,281
Hangu	33	330	0	164	30	537
Kohat	1,061	9,958	10	1,895	300	13,128
Peshawar	12,722	1,462	119	1,890	1,200	17,265
Total	13,793	11,750	10,308	3,958	1,402	41,211

Others include Bajaur, DI Khan, Hangu, Khyber, Kohat, Mohmand, North Waziristan, Peshawar and Tank.

Reason for displacement

The IVAP inclusion policy is based on the IDPs International Guiding Principles² when determining IDP status. About 90% of profiled IDPs fled from their area of origin due to conflict in the area³, 9% due to perception of insecurity⁴, and another 1% due to either personal risks⁵ (0.4%) or due to diminished economic opportunities⁶ as a result of conflict (0.7%).



² <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G98/104/93/PDF/G9810493.pdf?OpenElement>

³ Conflict in the area refers to the area GoP declares notified and army are conducting search operations against militants

⁴ Threat of insecurity is an indication of an approaching or imminent menace that results into consequences of risk to individual of the family, and the likelihood of the occurrence of the event (army operation in neighboring village)

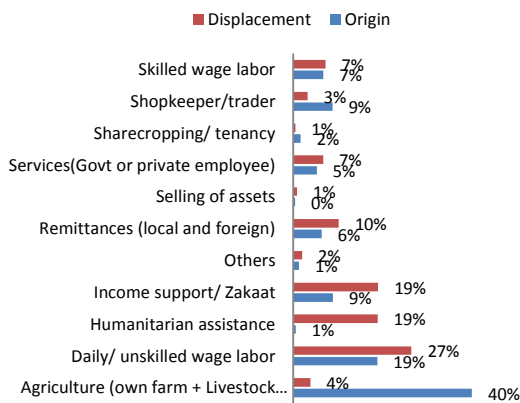
⁵ Individual Threat refers to a situation, action, or an individual that may harm a person or the family living in FATA agencies related to the militancy or army operations against the militants.

⁶ No economic opportunities refer to only those livelihoods lost as a direct result of conflict (e.g. Loisam corridor in Bajaur Agency where litigation was stopped by the army).

Displacement and livelihoods

As expected, the survey findings show a major disruption in the livelihoods of families. Agriculture (including farming, livestock and poultry) was the most important source of livelihood at the place of origin, with 40% of families reporting agriculture as their main source of income prior to displacement. After the disruption that comes with displacement, only 4% of families were still able to report agriculture as their source of income in their host areas. Similarly, the proportion of families engaged in small-scale businesses (shopkeepers/traders) reduced from 9% before displacement to 3% after. Only 19% of families reported owning livestock in the area of residence after displacement.

Figure 3: Pre and post displacement analysis of first income sources



The proportion of families with more reliable sources of livelihoods, such as farming and trade, was greatly reduced as a result of displacement, and a much greater proportion are now depending on less reliable sources of income, such as daily unskilled wage labour (27% in the area of displacement compared to 19% in place of origin), humanitarian assistance (19%, 1%) and income support/zakaat (19%, 9%) as their main source of income. With the source of income generation replaced largely by unreliable means of livelihoods, displaced families are far more vulnerable to food insecurity as a result of their inability to access regular and nutritious sources of food.

Household assets, income and expenditure

Displacement also has a significant impact on household assets. Among the displaced families, only 9% owned a refrigerator, sewing machines (8%), radios (7%), bicycles (6%), washing machines (6%), some form of machinery (5%), TV (4%), plough (1%), heater (1%), and car/truck/taxi (1%).

About 41% of the families reported not having any of these assets.

Survey findings show that farming has been replaced by daily wage labor as the main source of livelihood, forcing more households to sustain themselves with opportunities in the surrounding markets, in addition to humanitarian assistance, to meet their food needs. The mean monthly income of the families has been found to be PKR 10,049 (about USD 94), which is very low considering the average family size of 5.22. When asked about their expenses, families reported their monthly expenditure to be higher than their income by more than 25%. On average, families spent 57% of their monthly expenditure on food.

Markets and food availability

Availability of food in the market does not appear to be an obstacle; 78% of IDPs reported that there was enough food available in the market. The problem lies in access to food. Sixty eight percent of IDP families reported not having enough resources to buy food from the market which is primarily attributable to their low income, and because of the unstable nature of their new sources of income as casual wage laborers.

Food consumption

An analysis based on seven-day recall of the food consumed by households revealed that, overall, only 39% of households had acceptable food consumption (with a food consumption score of more than 42), while 3% of households were found to have poor food consumption. A majority (57%) of households was found to be in the borderline food consumption, and were thus classified as vulnerable as their food consumption status could easily shift downward to the poor food consumption group if conditions deteriorate even marginally. While this distribution of food consumption groups is similar to overall situation in Pakistan (most surveys⁷ indicate that majority of households are in borderline consumption group), it should be noted that all registered IDPs are covered by food assistance. Thus it indicates the need of continued assistance or else their food consumption would fall to a very low level with potential serious impact on health.

⁷ For example, the Livelihood Recovery Appraisal (LRA) 2012 conducted in 20 districts affected by floods of 2010 and/or 2011 found that 58% of households were under border line food consumption group, while 9% were under poor food consumption and 33% had acceptable food consumption.

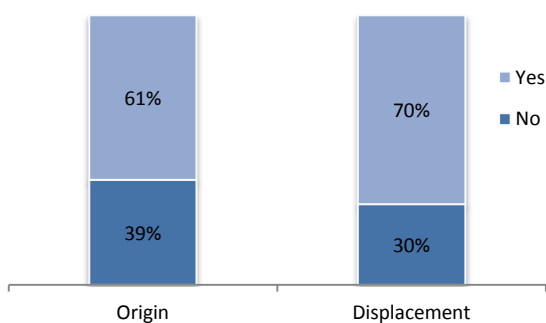
Household food stock

Food stock available at the household level is a major indicator of food security. About 85% of the families reported that the current food stock available to the family is barely adequate for two weeks or less, with 63% reportedly having only sufficient food stock for less than a week. Given that most families have to rely on unpredictable sources of income, such as casual labour and humanitarian assistance, having limited stock of food at home makes them particularly vulnerable to food insecurity.

Education and health

In the analysis of children attending school, some 61% of children were found to have attended schools in their communities of origin, while 70% were found to have attended school in the host communities. While it initially seems like an improvement, likely due to their new residence being in urban areas, on closer examination the attendance of children of displaced families was found to be lower than that of the host communities. According to 31% of IDP families, the inability to pay school fees as well as a lack of books and uniforms were the primary reasons for not attending school in host communities. 18% of school-age children in the profiled families prefer going to Madrassa as there is no school fee or food expenditure involved, while 5% were found to be involved in child labor, which was the reason for not attending school.

Figure 4: IDPs children going to school - pre and post displacement analysis

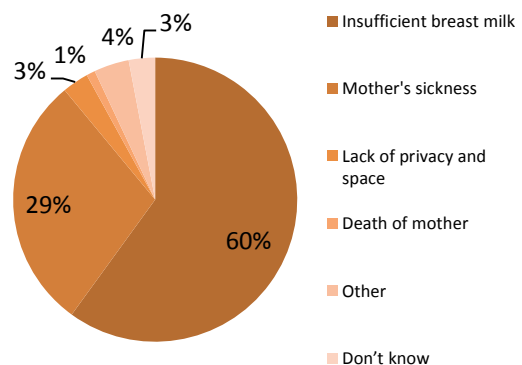


In terms of health, chronic illness seems to be a major issue with the families covered by survey, as 14.1% of the families reported having individuals with some kind of chronic illness, as explained in the section on family profile.

Infant and young child feeding practices

About 34% of parents with children under 2 years of age reported to have put their children on breast milk within an hour of being born, while 39% reported to have done so within 24 hours. Three-quarters of the IDP families (75%) reported to have continuously breastfed their infants for 6 months from the time of birth. However, almost one quarter (22%) of IDP families displaced within the last six months reported to have reduced breastfeeding of their children (2 years old or younger) after displacement. Insufficient breast milk was reported by 60% of female respondents to be the primary reason for reducing their breastfeeding, which was primarily because of the poor nutritional status of lactating mothers.

Figure 5: Reasons for breast milk stopped or decreased

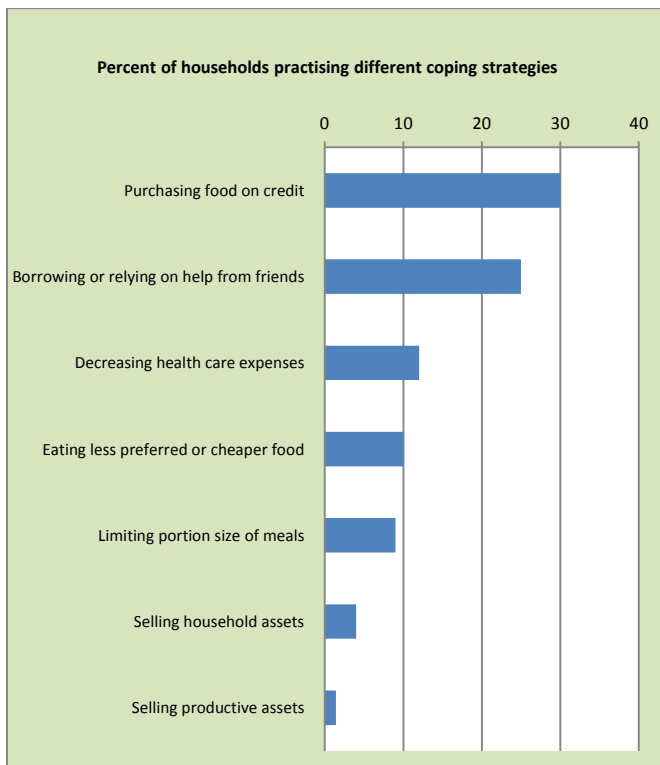


Coping strategies

Households were asked if they had to adopt coping strategies if they had problems in fulfilling their food needs in the past one month. 92 percent of families reported that they indeed had to adopt various coping strategies in order to meet their food needs due to their reduced livelihoods and income in the host communities.

The most common practices included purchasing food on credit (practiced by 30% of families), borrowing food or relying on help from friends (25%), and eating less preferred or cheaper (poor quality) food (10%). Other practices included limiting portion size of meals (9%) and decreasing health care expenses (12%). Some even engaged in selling household assets (4%) and productive assets (1.4%).

Figure 6: coping strategies practiced by the displaced families



Top needs identified by the families

Shelter, food and livelihood/income opportunities were the most important needs identified by the displaced families in the areas of current residence. While the need for food and livelihood assistance can be understood from the analysis presented earlier, additional analysis for shelter follows:

Fifty nine percent of IDP families were living in rented houses, while 16% of families were staying with relatives or friends. All of these families identified rental assistance or shelter support as their primary need. The majority of the IDPs (96%) lived in less than 5 Marla⁸ houses for which they have to pay high rent, compromising their ability to pay for basic necessities such as food, health and education. The average number of individuals sleeping per room was 4.8, and it was observed that 62% of the respondents’ families had average ‘overall physical appearance’ (skin, clothes, hair)

⁸The Marla is a traditional unit of area in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. The Marla was standardized under British rule to be equal to the square ‘rod’, or 272.25 square feet. This measure is still in use in Pakistan and is equal to 30.25 sq yards or 25.28 square metres.

and 36% were observed to be in poor physical condition.

Perception on return

About 95% of the respondents suggested that they intend to return to their area of origin, security permitting. About 88% of the respondents said that they would return when they feel it is safe. Cited reasons include insecurity (35%), lack of housing (31%) and limited community infrastructure (21%).

Conclusions and key issues for follow-up

- The displaced populations are vulnerable to food insecurity as they have to rely on unstable sources of livelihood such as casual wage labour to meet their food needs. Majority of the families fall in the borderline food consumption group, and as a result of any additional shock could slip into ‘poor food consumption’ category. Such vulnerability justifies continued food assistance and livelihood support.
- A significant proportion of IDP families (about 84%) are adopting multiple coping mechanisms to meet their food requirements in host community locations. Common practices included purchasing food on credit (practiced by 30%), borrowing food or relying on help from friends (25%) eating less preferred or cheaper (poor quality) food (10%), and limiting portion size of meals (9%).
- Shelter has been identified as a major issue with almost 60% of the families reportedly living in rented houses and another 16% living with relatives or friends under very poor conditions, and limited income.
- Ten percent of the IDPs were using unprotected sources of water for drinking, which directly compromises their health status. Moreover 33% of the families identified reported that they did not use soap during critical times such as before cooking meals, feeding their infants and after using latrine facilities. For those families who did not have water available inside their homes (6%), it was collected by children 5-18 years of age (27%), women (40%) and men (32%).
- A significant proportion (14%) of families reported having individuals with chronic illness.

- Even though most displaced families have intention to return, the actual return is dependent upon the overall security and living environment in the areas of origin. Thus the humanitarian community should be prepared to assist these populations until they are able to return to a stable livelihood.



This bulletin is jointly published by IRC and WFP based on the survey of displaced families conducted from June to October, 2013. The survey is still ongoing and further updates shall be shared in the next issue. For more information about the bulletin, you may contact the following:

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Details of the IVAP project are also provided on the IVAP website <http://www.ivap.org.pk>

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