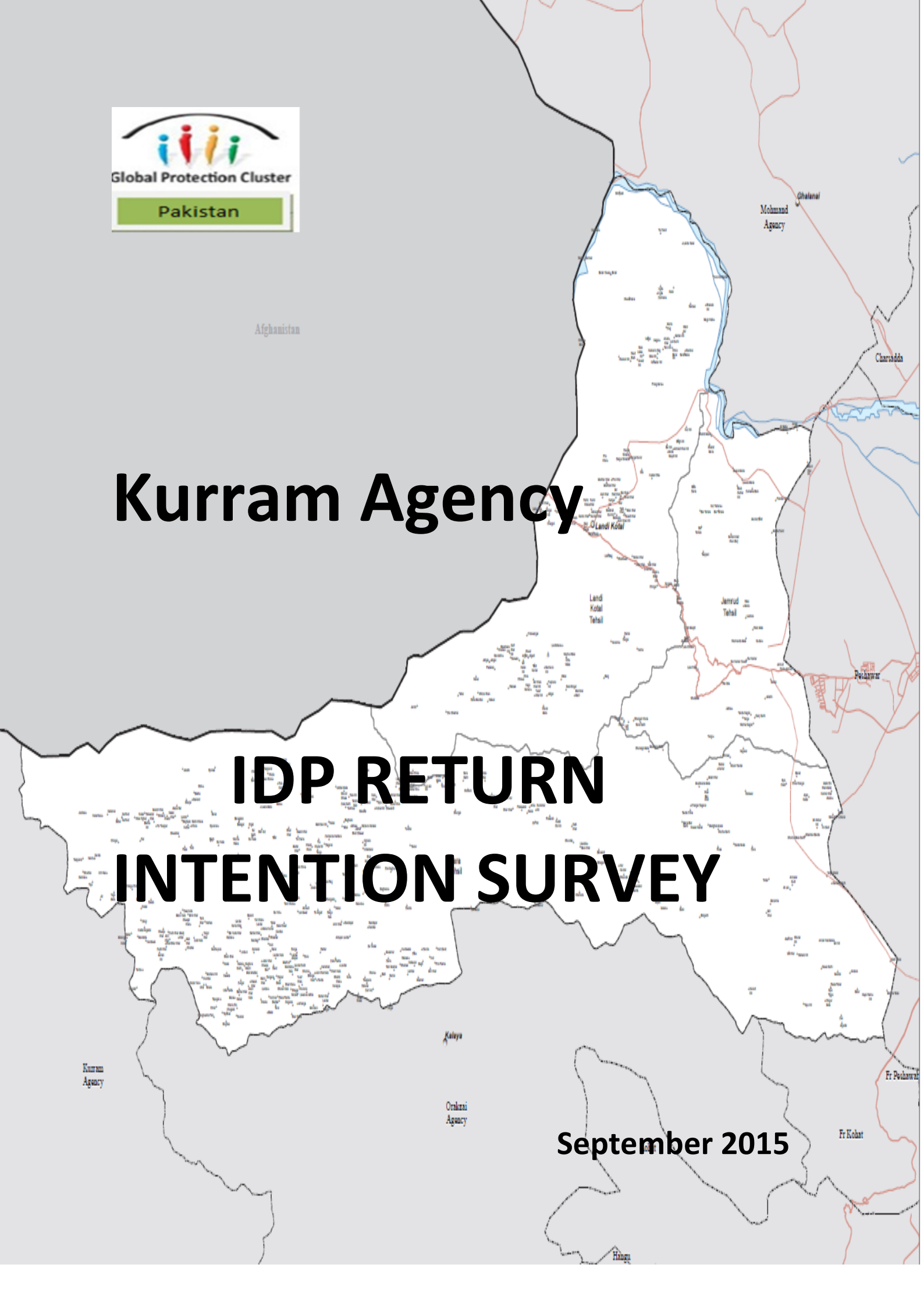




Kurram Agency

IDP RETURN INTENTION SURVEY

September 2015



Background

Kurram Agency is located in the Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) of Pakistan and shares a border with Afghanistan. The Agency is bordered on the north and west by Afghanistan (Nangarhar and Paktia provinces respectively), on the east by Orakzai and Khyber Agencies, on the southeast by District Hangu and on the south by North Waziristan Agency. The agency comprises a total area of 3,380 square kilometres.

Kurram Agency takes its name from the river Kurram, which passes through it. The headquarters of the agency is located at Parachinar. Kurram Agency is the only tribal region in the country which has a large number of Shiites - the rest of the six tribal agencies are overwhelmingly inhabited by Sunni Muslims. Total population of Kurram agency is 500,000, with 58 percent Sunni and 42 percent Shia. The majority of the Shias lives in the upper Kurram, while Sunnis in lower and central Kurram. The population of Kurram valley consists of a number of tribes, namely Turi, Bangash, Parachamkani, Massozai, Alisherzai, Zaimusht, Mangal, Kharotai, Ghalgi and Hazara. There was also a sizeable Sikh population but most of them have left the valley. Sectarian violence is not a new phenomenon in Kurram Agency where well over 4000 people have been killed in clashes between the Sunni and Shia tribes since 1980.



Kurram Agency has three tehsils: upper Kurram, lower Kurram and central Kurram and four major towns namely: Parachinar, Sadda, Alizai, and Baggan.

In November 2007, the sectarian clashes started in Upper Kurram Agency and they spread over both upper and lower sub-divisions of the agency. Families started fleeing the Agency to other districts such as, Hangu, Kohat Peshawar etc.

The government notified the entire Kurram agency as a conflict zone and requested the humanitarian agencies for registration and assistance. UNHCR established registration desks through the Social Welfare department in Hangu and Kohat for registration of IDP families but after the bombing incident at the Kacha Paka registration center in Kohat on 2nd May 2010, claiming the lives of 42 security officials, the registration centers were and moved to Peshawar.

Methodology

As part of the returns planning matrix, the protection cluster was asked by the Return Task Force (RTF) on 2 September 2015, to conduct a Return Intention Survey (RIS) of Kurram Agency.

Responding to this request, and in line with the Return Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in February 2012, but also in accordance with the “Return Policy Framework for IDP from FATA” signed by FDMA in 2010, the Protection Cluster and its members agreed to conduct a series of consultations with the displaced population to capture their intentions and position vis-à-vis the announced return process.

It should be understood that the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement are clear on a government’s responsibility to respond to the needs of IDPs during displacement and in displacement until attaining durable solutions, including sustainable returns. However, a government may request assistance from the humanitarian community to assist and facilitate returns.

A representative sample of 534 families out of 4552 families were chosen for this quantitative Return Intention Survey (RIS) which would provide results within 5% margin of error and 95% confidence level. Out of the 534 respondents, 478 were registered while 56 families were not registered.

The Return Intention Survey (RIS) was conducted using a questionnaire (Annex A) which was slightly adapted to the current situation. 21 Enumerators from PVDP, PADO, Paiman Trust, YRC, IRC, KK, EHSAR, AICD,, PRSP, SRSP and UNOPS contributed to the exercise and were trained by the Protection Cluster on the questionnaire as well as on basic principles of confidentiality, informed consent and interviewing techniques. Six of the 21 enumerators were female staff.

The Key informant interviews took place in September 2015 and the below table shows the names of the return villages and the number of respondents reached:

TABLE 1: OVERVIEW OF DENOTIFIED VILLAGES AND NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS

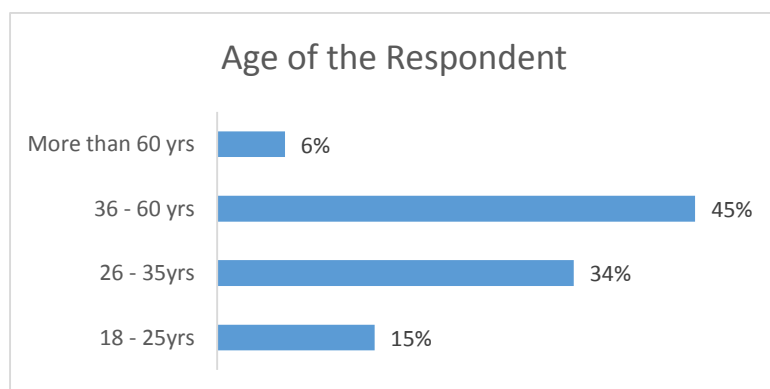
Aghoz gadai	1
Ali Sher Zai	11
Azize Kala	1
Bushara	5

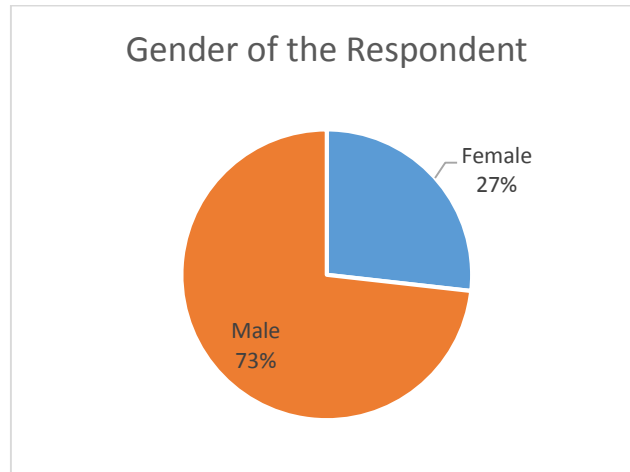
Ghulami saparey	2
Jozak Boshara	2
Karman	1
Kaskey	14
Khanry	5
Landi wan	24
Mahezai	7
Nary Kali	9
Other (please specify)	297
Parachinar city	122
Peer Qayoom	1
Sadda city	25
Tari Mangal	4
Zairang Mula Bagh	1
Ziran	2
Grand Total	534

This report presents the following main findings:

Profile of respondents

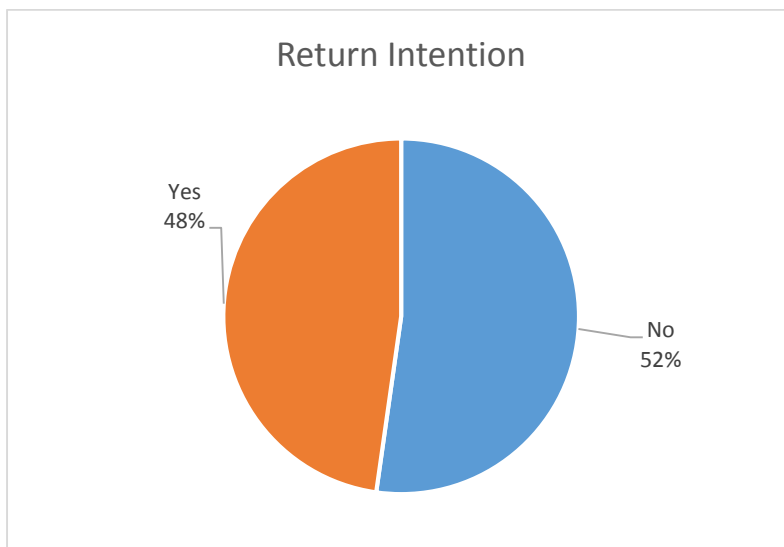
Based on the sample of 534 persons, 391 (73%) of the respondents were male and 143 (391%) were female while 89% of the displaced persons left their places of origin more than 5 years ago while 9% left more than 4 years. 45% of the respondents were aged between 36 – 60 years





Return Intention

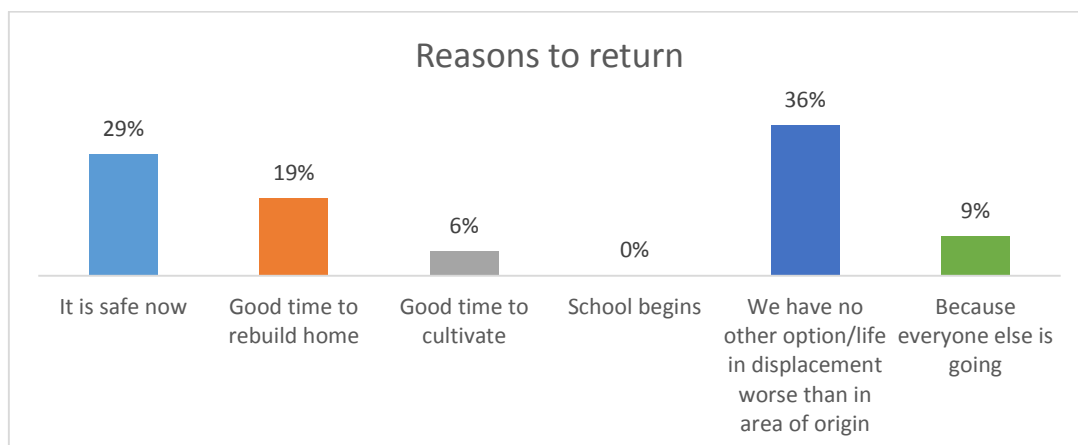
52% of the IDPs indicated that they do not intend to return while 48% of displaced persons indicated their intention to return to their places of origin.



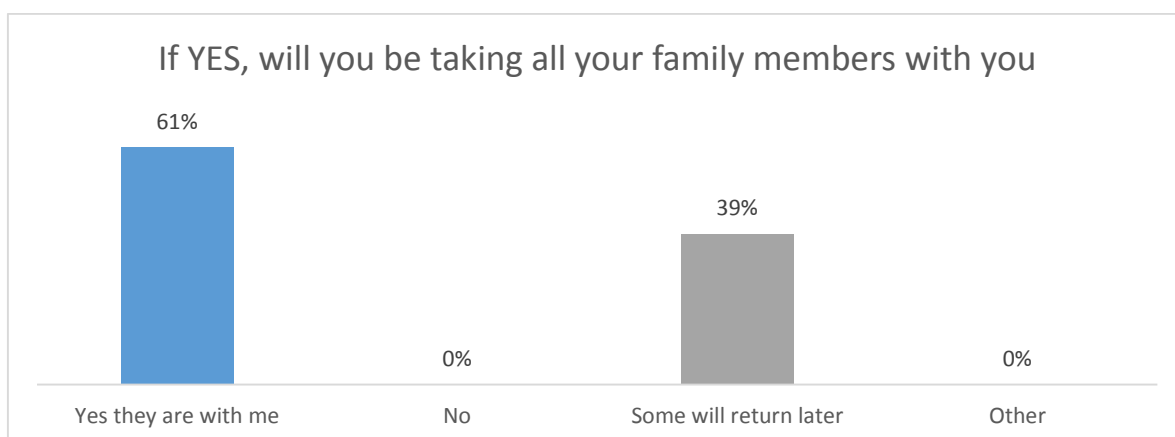
The main reasons for the 52% of IDPs not wanting to return to their places of origin are: destroyed/damaged houses (78% of respondents). This is by far the biggest problem reported by the consulted IDPs from Kurram. A range of other challenges followed, expressed with frequency: 12% mentioned security/safety concerns, 3% stated that land possessed is destroyed or damaged, 3% expressed that they have better livelihood opportunities here, whereas 2% of the respondents claimed that they don't possess land in area of return, 1% focused on lacking health facilities in area of origin and 1% said that assistance is insufficient to allow them for return.

The main reasons for 48% IDPs wanting to return to their places of origin are: that they have no other options/life in displacement is worse (36%), it is safe now (29%), good time to rebuild home (19%)

while 9% and 6% respectively believe that because everyone else is going and that it is a good time to cultivate.



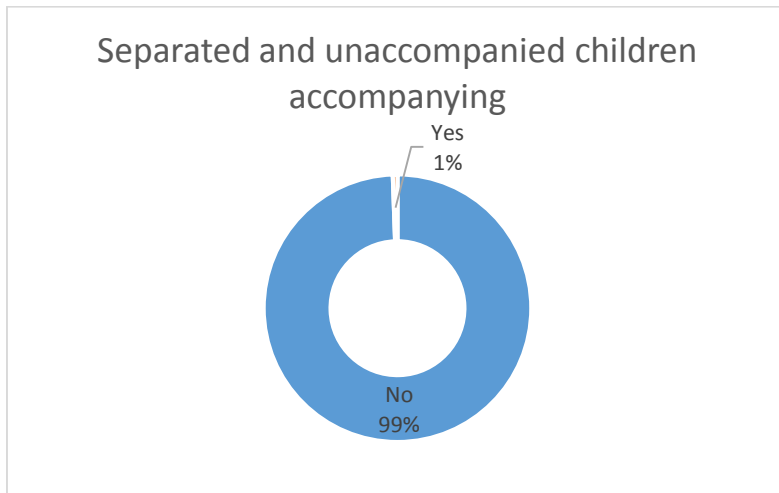
As for the dynamics of the return within the family, 61% of respondents stated that they intend to return with the whole family.



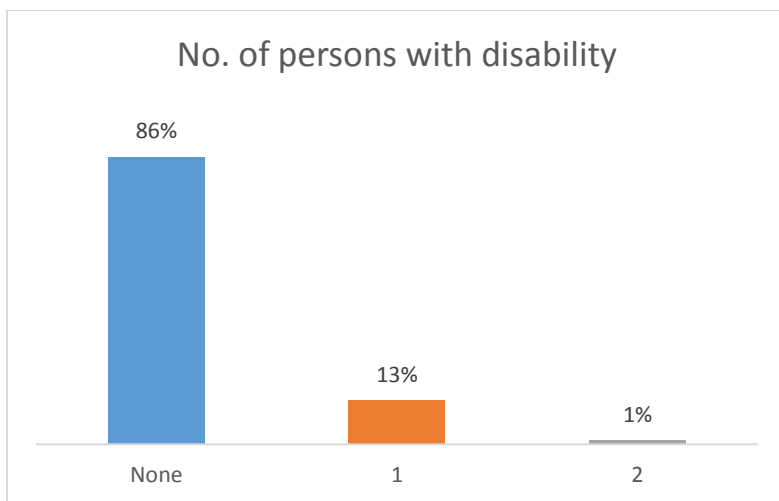
It was also asked if they want to settle somewhere else instead of returning to their area of origin, significantly 81% respondents stated that they do not want to settle somewhere else, of the 19% who wants to settle somewhere else, 69% expressed interest to settle in Peshawar, 24% in Kohat, 3% in Attock, 2% in Tarnab, 1% in Nowshera and 1% in Abbotabad.

Specific Concerns

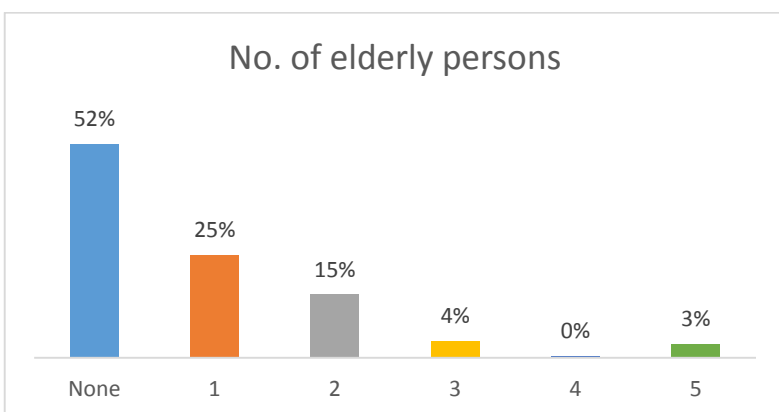
In order to facilitate and assist the return of the most vulnerable, questions were asked related to separated or unaccompanied children. 99% of families responded with NO to this question



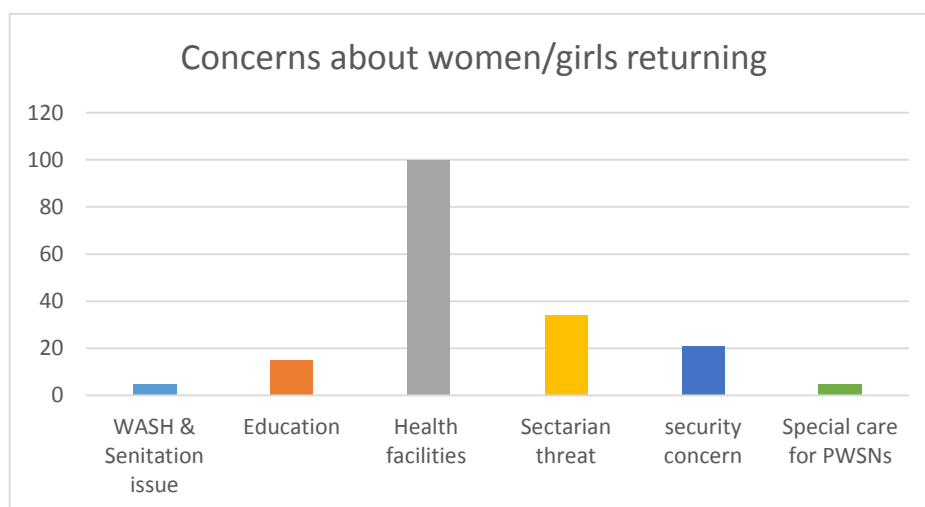
The number of disabled persons 86% replied with NO, 13% stated that 1 person with disability in household and only 1% confirmed that 2 persons with disability in household.



Similarly, questions about elderly person were also asked in response 52% replied with NO elderly person, 25% stated that there are 2 elderly persons in household, 15% said that there are 3 elderly persons in household, 4% said 3 persons and 3% said 5 elderly persons in household.



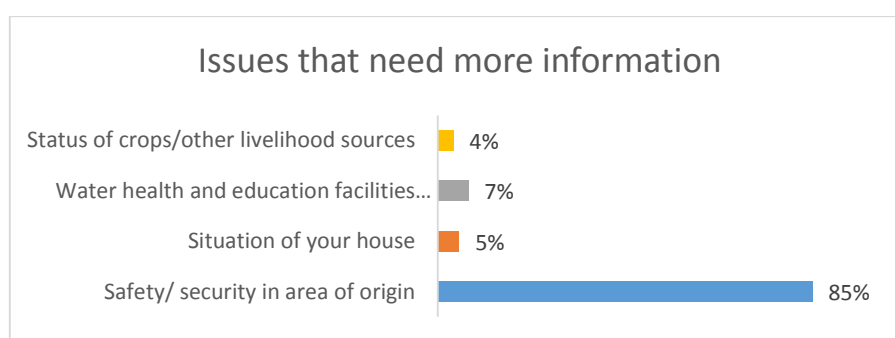
76% of the respondents replied that they do not have concerns about women returning to their places of origin. Whereas 24% have concerns, therefore health facilities, Sectarian threats, Security concerns, Education, WASH and sanitation issues and special care for PWSNs.



Informed and Voluntary Nature of the Return

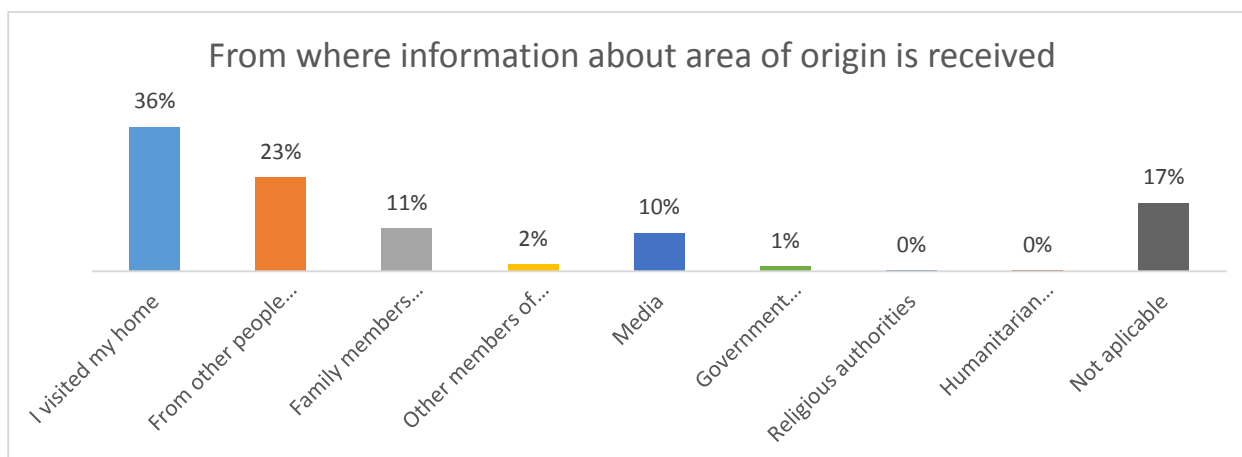
A series of questions were addressed to the Kurram IDPs to ascertain the level of information that they possessed regarding their areas of origin/return, the need for additional information and the decision-making process on which the decision to return would be based.

Of the 534 respondents, 83% felt that they have enough information on their areas or origin/return. When asked about what type of information the IDP families would need to have to make a fully informed decision, majority respondents (85%) cited the topic of “safety and security in areas of origin”. 7% of the respondents indicated wishing to receive information on water resources, health and education facilities currently available in the area of origin, 5% stated that they wish to have information on the situation of their houses; finally 4% of the consulted IDPs mentioned the situation of livelihood and crops.

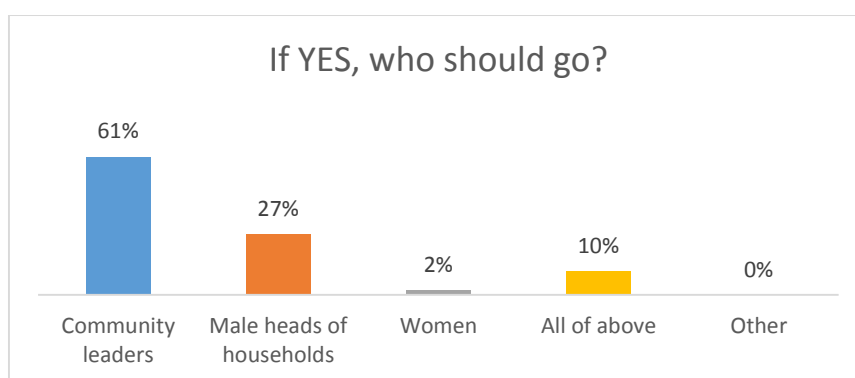


In terms of source of information, 36% of the respondents reported to have visited the area of origin/ return and 23% of the consulted IDPs reported to have received the information about the areas of return from others who are in ‘my area of origin’ or visited. 10% of the consulted IDPs

reported to have received information from media; while 11% stated to have been informed by family members who have not yet visited the area, and 2% from other members of community, also not yet returned.

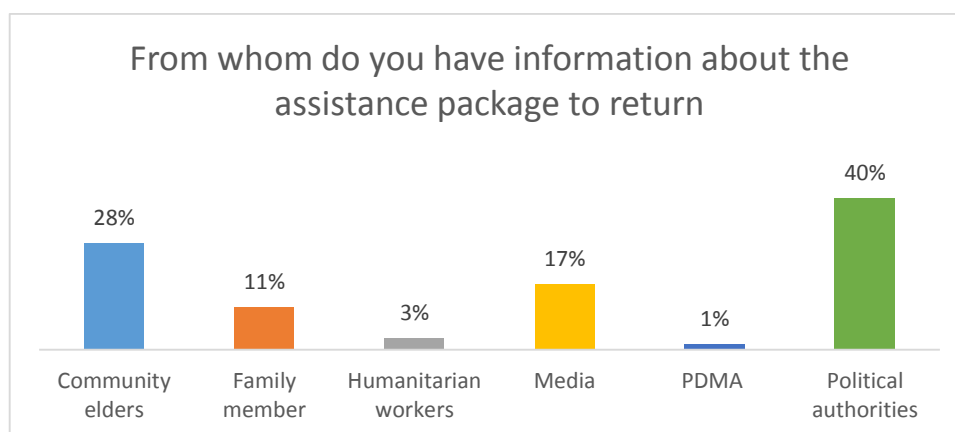


Regarding the issue of “Go and See visits”, 62 % of the respondents stated that these visits would be useful, 38% did not find them useful. Amongst those IDPs who responded affirmatively, 61% believed that the “Go and See” visit should be conducted by community leaders, 27% entrusted the male heads of households, 2% stated that women should “Go and See” and 10% were of the view that all mentioned above should make visit together.

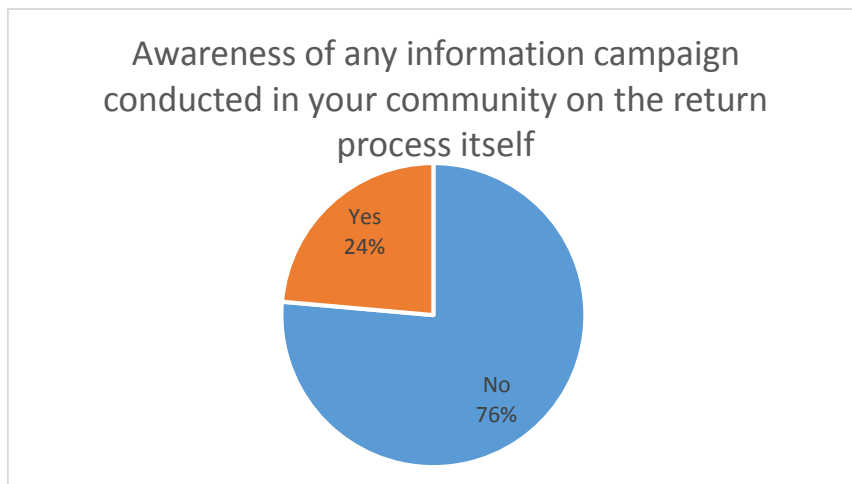


When asked about their knowledge on the return assistance package, more than 57% of IDPs seem to be aware about the return assistance package that the government is going to provide, while 43% is not aware of the package.

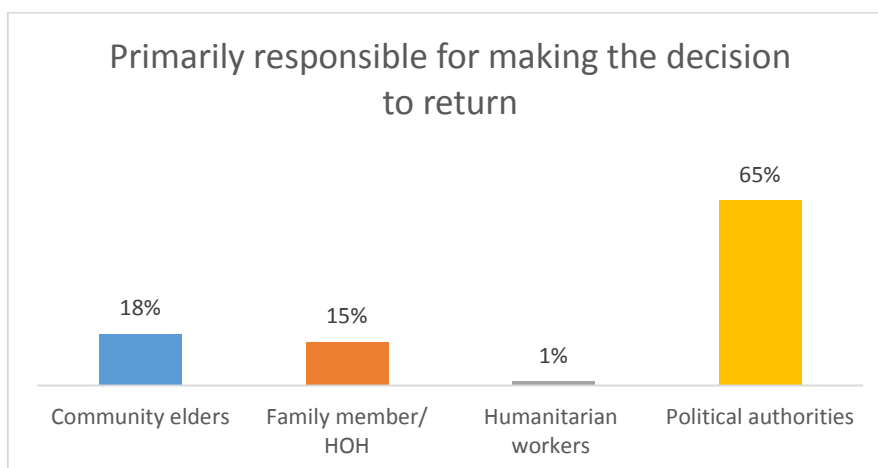
Amongst the 57% who affirmed to be aware of the return package, 40 % of the respondents stated that they had received this information from the political authorities, 28% from community elders, 17% from the media, 11% from family members, 3% from humanitarian workers and 1% from PDMA.



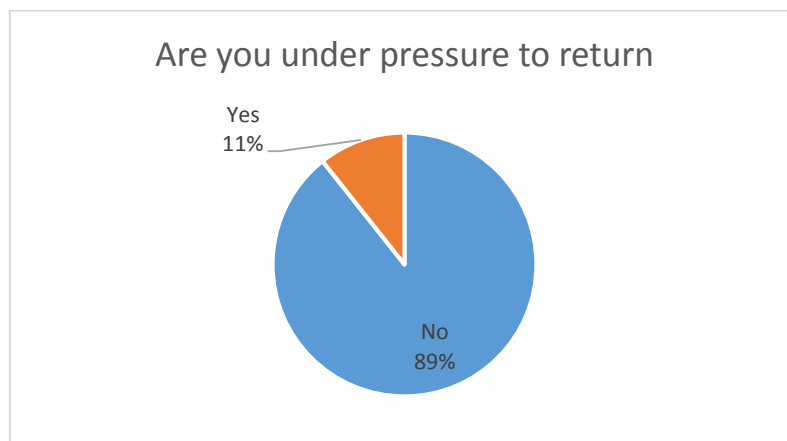
Signalling a possible lack of awareness and information initiatives on the return process, almost 76% of the consulted IDPs indicated to be unaware of any information campaigns conducted on the return process by the authorities or by humanitarian workers. Of the 24% who are aware of the return process, 11% found the information not helpful while 56% found it somewhat helpful and 33% found it very helpful.



There is also a clear perception that the decision to return is made by the political authorities (65% of the respondents), 18% of the respondents stated that the decision is made by the community elders, 15% of the respondents stated that decision is made by family members and only 1% of the respondents stated that decision is made by humanitarian workers.

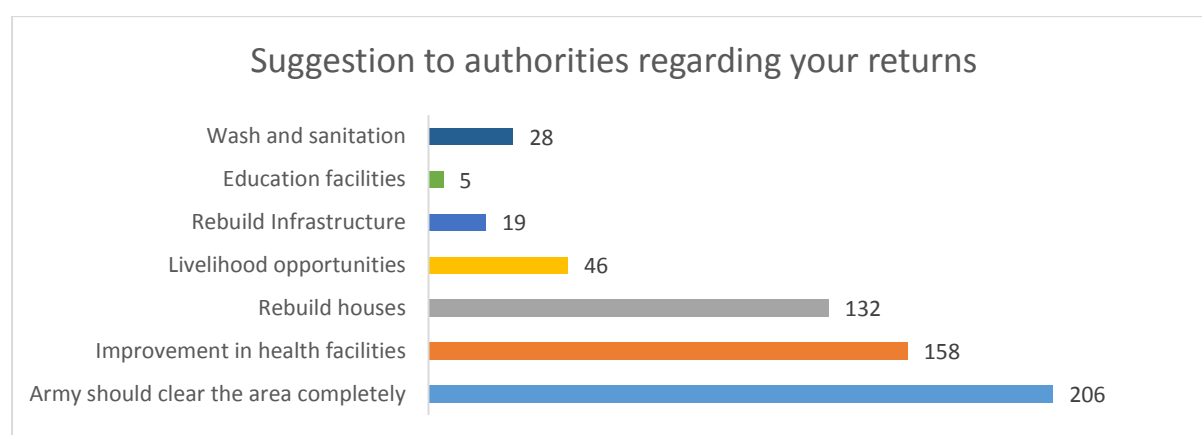


50% of the respondents feel that they actively participate in the decision making process while 89% of the respondents affirmed not to be under any pressure to return. Amongst the very few IDPs (11%) who signalled some form of pressure, 82% reported that they feel under pressure because “I was told I must return by political authorities” while 14% indicated that “I was told I must return by elders/community members”, 2% reported that “I was told I must return by humanitarian workers” and 2% fell under pressure because the humanitarian assistance received in displacement is inadequate.



Suggestions to authorities on return process

On enquiring about the suggested support from authorities, respondents most frequently requested the army to clear the area, followed by improvement in health facilities, shelter, livelihood opportunities, rebuilding of infrastructure, education facilities, WASH assistance.



Conclusions and Recommendations:

52% of the IDPs indicated that they do not intend to return while 48% of displaced persons indicated their intention to return to their places of origin. This raises some serious concerns about the timing of the return by the authorities and the reasons why.

As more than half of the respondents do not intend to return, it is imperative that the protection cluster has unimpeded access to and is able to conduct protection monitoring, both in the areas of displacement and return. Other recommendations include:

Recommendations:

- To inform the decision-making process, concrete action plans for the return process should be prepared and presented by the authorities.

- Authorities' plans should include an analytical report on the current situation in areas of return (security situation, status of infrastructures, available services, etc.) as well as the concrete reconstruction/rehabilitation plans of the Government for the return areas.
- Authorities, supported by HComms, should make available detailed information to IDPs before the return process, in particular on the status of available services, on the reconstruction/ rehabilitation plans of the authorities, and the housing compensation process.
- Specific attention should be paid to those sectors highlighted as major challenges by the returning IDPs. These sectors include housing, livelihood, water, health and education services, but also interventions to improve the situation of persons with specific needs (children and women in psychological distress, persons with disabilities, the elderly).
- Humanitarian/ early recovery actors should be granted unimpeded access to areas of return by the civil and military authorities to carry out protection monitoring and direct project implementation.

ANNEX A:

RIS QUESTIONNAIRE

GI1. Interview Date

GI2. Interviewer Name

PI1. Name of the Respondent

PI2. Phone Number of the Respondent

PI3. Gender and Age of the Respondent

- Male
- Female
- Age

PI4. Place of origin – village

Aghoz gadai

Ali Sher Zai

Azize Kala

Bushara

Ghulami saparey

Jozak Boshara

Karman

Kaskey

Khanry

Landi wan

Mahezai

Nary Kali

Parachinar city

Peer Qayoom

Sadda city

Tari Mangal

Zairang Mula Bagh

Ziran

PI5. Are you registered?

- Yes
- No

PI6. No of family members

- # of Males -----
- # of Females -----

PI7. How many in the family are pregnant/ lactating women

PI8. How many persons with disability in the family?

PI9. How many elderly persons in the family?

PI10. Are they with you?

- Yes
- No

PI11. If "NO" in PI10, where are they?

- In the area of displacement
- In the area of return

PI12. What support do they need?

- Medical
- Psycho-social
- Assistive device
- Specialized care

Displacement Information

"DI1. When did you leave your area of origin?"

- Less than 1 year
- 1 – 2 years
- 2 – 3 years

- 3 – 4 years
- 4 – 5 years
- More than 5 years

INFORMED & VOLUNTARY NATURE OF RETURN

IV1. Do you have information about the situation in your area of origin?

- Yes
- No

IV2. If YES in IV1, from where did you receive information about your area of origin?

- A. I visited my home
- B. From other people who are in my area of origin or visited
- C. Family members (who did not yet visit the area)
- D. Other members of the community (who did not yet visit the area)
- E. Media
- F. Government officials
- G. Religious authorities
- H. Humanitarian workers
- X. Other(please specify)

IV3. Do you need more information on any of these issues?

- A. Safety/ security in area of origin
- B. Situation of your house
- C. Water health and education facilities available
- D. Status of crops/other livelihood sources
- X. Other (please specify)

IV4. Would an organized visit to the areas be useful? (If NO skip to IV6)

- Yes
- No

IV5. If Yes in IV4, who should go?

- 1. Community leaders,
- 2. Male heads of households,
- 3. Women,
- 4. All of above
- 5. Other

IV6. Are you aware of the transportation and compensation grant/assistance given by the Government? (If NO skip to IV9)

- Yes
- No

IV7. From whom do you have information about the assistance package to return?

- Political authorities,
- Community elders,
- Family member,
- Media,
- Humanitarian workers
- PDMA

IV8. Are you aware of any information campaign conducted in your community on the return process itself?

- Yes
- No

IV8a. If YES in IV8, was the information provided:

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not helpful

IV9. Who is primarily responsible for making the decision to return?

- Political authorities,
- Community elders,
- Family member/ HOH
- Humanitarian workers

IV10. Do you participate in decision making process?

- Yes
- No

IV11. Are you under pressure to return? (If NO Skip to RR1)

- Yes
- No

IV12. If IV11=Yes, how are you under pressure?

- 1.I was told I must return by political authorities
- 2. I was told I must return by elders/community members
- 3. I was told I must return by humanitarian workers
- 4. The assistance I receive in displacement is inadequate
- 5. Assistance will stop
- 6. I feel unsafe here
- 7.Other (please specify)

RR READINESS TO RETURN PERMANENTLY

RR1. Do you want to return to your area of origin?

- Yes
- No

RR2. If NO in RR1, why not?

- A. House destroyed or damaged

- B. Land destroyed or damaged
- C. I Don't have land
- D. My house is occupied
- E. Markets still closed back home
- F. I/my family has more livelihood opportunities here
- G. Lack of health services in areas or return
- H. Lack of education services in areas of return
- I. Lack of livelihood opportunities in areas of return
- J. Lack of specialized services (children, PWDs) in areas of return
- K. Not enough financial resources for the journey back home
- L. Not physically fit to travel right now (myself or family member)
- M. No knowledge about assistance in return areas
- N. Assistance is insufficient
- O. There are safety issues.
- P. I don't know
- Q. None, the situation is fine
- R. Due to sectarian issues
- X. Other (please specify)

RR3. If YES in RR1, what is the timeframe?

- I am ready to go
- 1 week
- 15 days
- 1 month
- After 1 month

RR4. If RR1 is YES, why do you want to return?

- A. It is safe now
- B. Good time to rebuild home
- C. Good time to cultivate
- D. School begins
- E. We have no other option/life in displacement worse than in area of origin
- F. Because everyone else is going
- X. Other (please specify)

RR5. If RR1 is Yes, will you be taking all your family members with you?

- Yes, they are with me
- No
- Some will return later
- Other

RR6. If you are leaving your children behind, where will these children stay?

- Relatives
- Madrassa
- Institution
- Other (please specify)

RR7. Do you have separated and unaccompanied children accompanying you?

- Yes
- No

HN HUMANITERIAN NEEDS

HN1. Are there any specific concerns about women and girls returning?

- Yes,
- No

HN2. If HN1=Yes, what are they? (Open)

HN3. What is the condition of your house in your area of origin?

- 1. Destroyed
- 2. Partially damaged
- 3. Don't know
- 4. Fine
- 5. Other (please specify)

AR ALTERNATIVE TO RETURN

AR1. Would you prefer to re-settle somewhere else instead of returning to origin area?

- Yes,
- No

AR2. If yes, where?

MISCELLANEOUS

M1. If you could only give one suggestion to authorities regarding your returns, what would it be?
(open)

Note: Separated Child: Separated children are those separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary care-giver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other adult family members.

Unaccompanied Child: Unaccompanied children are those who are separated from both parents and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible to do so.