

RETURN INTENTION SURVEY FOR SOUTH WAZIRISTAN AGENCY  
STAGE 2 PHASE 3  
FROM 14<sup>TH</sup> TO 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016



## I. Background

South Waziristan is a mountainous region in northwest Pakistan, bordering Afghanistan. It comprises the area west and southwest of Peshawar between the Tochi River to the North and the Gomal River to the South, forming part of Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The security operation in South Waziristan Agency (SWA) in 2009 led to the displacement of 107,091 families; the majority of them from the Mehsud tribe. Most of the IDPs are living in host areas where they rent houses or are staying with relatives and extended families in DI Khan, Tank, Peshawar and Kohat.

Between 2010 and 2015, a number of organized and spontaneous returns took place. As a result, a total of 47,081 registered families remained displaced on 31 January 2016<sup>1</sup>.

On 13<sup>th</sup> July, during a Return Task Force (RTF) meeting held at the FDMA office in Peshawar, FDMA informed the Humanitarian community that organized returns of IDPs families to 67 villages of four tehsil of SWA i.e. Sararogha, Sarwakai, Makeen and Ladha would commence on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016

## II. Objective and methodology

From 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016, IVAP, a protection cluster member, interviewed 340 IDPs through its call centre in Peshawar. The objective of the interview was to capture their intentions and position vis-à-vis the announced return process. IDPs were asked a series of questions to ascertain the level of information they have regarding their areas of origin and the return process and how the information helps them to make a decision or not to return (**see ANNEX 1: Questionnaire**).

As per the return SoPs following the authority announcement to organize return in South Waziristan, the Return Task Force (RTF) on 13 July 2016, asked the protection cluster to conduct a Return Intention Survey (RIS). According to government information, it is estimated that about 15,000 – 20,000 IDP families from 67 de-notified villages/areas of South Waziristan Agency (SWA) will be expected to return in coming weeks<sup>1</sup>.

### De-notified villages on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Tehsils	Villages Name
LADHA/Makeen(12)	Piazza khulla, Dawatoi, Shakha, Toda china ashangi, Toda china, Malik shahi, Bangal khel -1,2,3 Badar bridge, Speshteen, Saam, Lower Kanigram left over,

<sup>1</sup> 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

Sararogha(15)	Shikari/kachari, Walma/gurgura, Mazarai/shinkai, Raghazi, Hisar kutsikai/zazh obe, tora taka, Ahmad wam, blind khel/guri khel, left over
Sarwakai (17)	Sitar meal/sharmasai/, Ragahzai, Gurgura/Guzguni, shinkindai mela/wargarao gurgura kulla, Ospna raghzai, inam khan kale, danikhel darkai goirkai raghzai, Bakasla kamar/nano, left over

### ***Sampling unit and frame***

The biggest challenge faced was that most of the cell numbers were either switched off or not responding which affected the data collection. The criteria for selecting the geographical area and deciding upon the sampling was based on the government announced return areas of 67 villages of three tehsil of SWA (i.e. Sararogha, Sarwakai, and Ladha of South Waziristan Agency).

Total random sample of 372 families (including replacement) was generated from a population data of 3,412 families. For determining and calculating the sample size, standard statistical procedures were used namely:

**Confidence Level:** 95% confidence level was used. This means that when the sample was re-calculated with the same interval it will contain 95% of the desired population response.

**Margin of Error (Confidence Interval):** Margin of error is the deviation of the responses from the desired response and it was calculated by using the formula:

$$\text{Margin of Error} = 1/\text{square root of the sample size}$$

By using the above formula we get 5% margin of error for the sample size.

**Limitation of the RIS:** a very small number of women, 3 out of 340 were interviewed, as a small number of women appear to not possess mobile devices.

### ***Respondents' profile***

99% of respondents were male (337 respondents) and 1% was female (3 respondents).

Majority of the respondents the people interviewed were registered.

The majority of the IDPs interviewed were aged between 30 – 60 years (136 interviewees) followed by the age group 25 – 35 years (120 interviewees) and 18– 25 years (56 interviewees) while more than 60 year are (23 interviewees).

Respondent Age breakdown		
Value	Total	%age
< 18 yrs.	5	1%
18 - 25yrs	56	16%
26 - 35yrs	120	35%

36 - 60 yrs	136	40%
More than 60 yrs	23	7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100%</b>

Out of the total of 340 interviewees, 79 families had one female as pregnant and lactating women in their family whereas 58 families have person with disability (PWD) in the household while 98 families have one elderly in their family. 83% respondent replied that they need medical assistance, 11% need specialized care service in the area of origin while 6% requested for the assistive devices.

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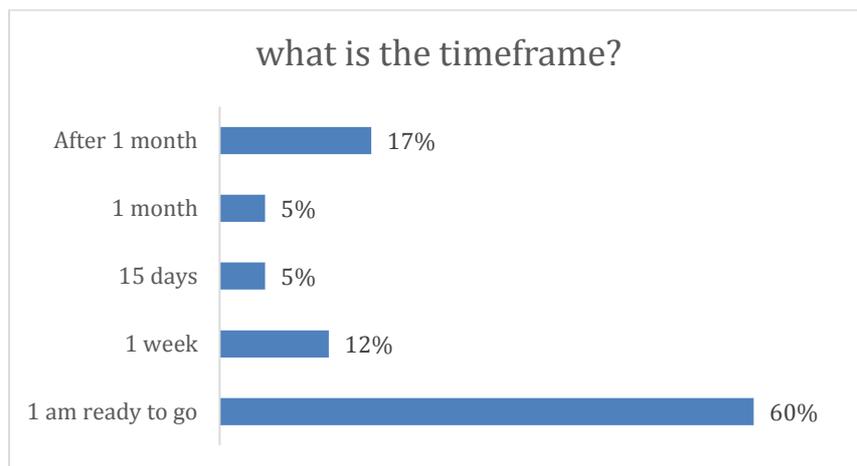
### III. Main findings

#### a) Return Intention

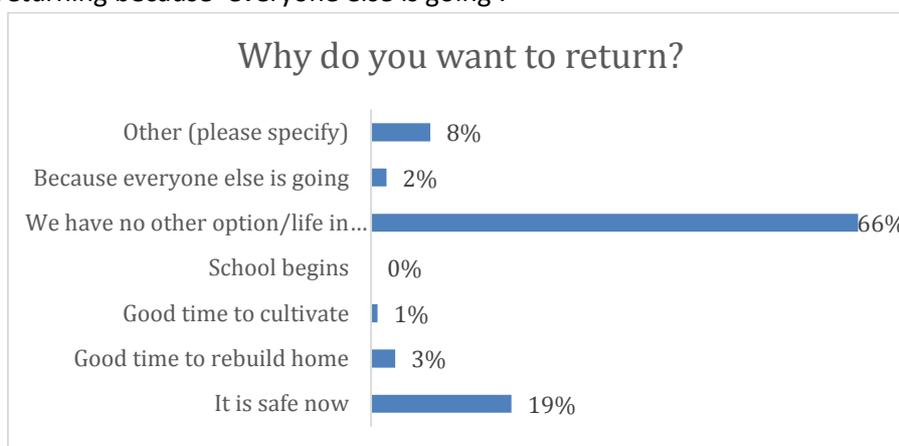
During the survey, 98% of the respondents indicated that they are willing to return while 2% disclosed that they had no intention to return. It is interesting to mention that 93% of the people interviewed would prefer a 'go-and-see-visit' before the returns start with 61% suggesting that community leaders shall go on this visit.

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Of the people indicated that they are willing to return, 60% are ready to go immediately while 17% would like to return after one month



It is worrying to note that the major reason given to return is that IDPs have ‘no other options/life in displacement is worse than in area of origin (66%), while only 19% responded that it is safe now to return and 3% indicated that is ‘a good time to rebuild their houses’. 2% is returning because ‘everyone else is going’.



Moreover, the decision to return is taken by the political authorities (62%) while 30% and 7% respectively intimidated by Head of Household/family members and community elders decide the matter.

IV9. Who is primarily responsible for making the decision to return?		
Value	Total	%Age
1. Political authorities	212	62%
2. Community elders	25	7%
3. Family member/HOH	102	30%
4. Humanitarian workers	1	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### b) Informed and voluntary nature of return

The voluntary nature of the returns can be confirmed as 100% of the people interviewed responded that they were not under any pressure to return. However, there was an issue of informed nature of the decision to return, as hard condition in displacement areas was taken into consideration to make a decision to return. 79% of people interviewed indicated that they are aware of information campaign by the GoP about the return process and return package while 21% said that they had not received information from the government authorities, elders and family members. Then again, it must be noted that at the time of the survey, the GoP information campaign (PSA = Public Service Announcement) was not yet broadcasted as this only happened after the RIS was conducted. Out of the 74 people (22%) who responded positively about having received information, 48% stated that the information received was very useful while 49% found the information somewhat useful information about the return package (cash assistance) seems to be more widely spread as 54% of the interviewees are aware of the package. The source of information on the cash assistance is the Family members (153 respondents) and community elders (83 respondents).

IV7. From whom do you have information about compensation grant/assistance given by the Government?
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Value	Total	%Age
Political authorities	17	6%
Community elders	83	31%
Family member	153	57%
Media	12	4%
Humanitarian workers	3	1%
PDMA	0	0%

In terms of information about the situation in the areas of return, 61% of the respondents reported that they have receive information from other people who visited the area 30% of the consulted IDPs reported to have themselves visited the area, while 2 % stated to have been informed by government .

The interviewees also communicated that they needed more information about the safety and security in their areas of origin (44%) and about the status of water and health facilities (23%) followed by condition of their houses (19%). Other 13% of IDPs are interested about the condition of the crops and source of livelihood in areas of return.

IV3. Do you need more information on any of these issues?		
Value	Total	%age
0.None	0	0%
A. Safety/ security in area of origin	117	44%
B. Situation of your house	51	19%
C. Water health and education facilities available	61	23%
D. Status of crops/other livelihood sources	34	13%
X. Other (please specify)	0	0%

### c) Concerns and challenges

Even though 98% of respondents expressed their intention to return, concerns were voiced regarding the situation in their areas of origin. The biggest challenge presently foreseen by the IDPs is the extensive damages of houses (67% of respondents) and the lack of livelihood opportunities (4%) while 2% mentioned that livelihood opportunities are better in the areas of displacement.

When asked about the intention to resettle somewhere else, 99% of the respondents replied they are not willing to resettle in the place of displacement or elsewhere in the country.

Out of 340 people interviewed, 83% replied that they need medical assistance in the area of return; 11 % requested for specialized care while 6 % requested for assistive devices due to presence of person with specific need in their family.

98 % of the people interviewed replied that there are no separated or unaccompanied children and 84% stated there are no specific concerns about women and girls while 16 % indicated there are issues related to specific concerns about women and girls, it was mentioned that there are no education facilities for females. There are many issues regarding health, as no medial facility is available.

#### **d) Key findings and recommendations**

97% of IDPs interviewed expressed the intention to return and by expressing this preference. While all of the IDPs indicated that there were not pressured to return it is also evident lack of livelihood and hardship in displacement areas is one of the reasons people are opting to return, while many challenges await for them in areas of origin.

Significantly, more than 60% of respondent have reported that information regarding return process and conditions in areas of origin as well as available assistance is received through informal mechanisms. This highlight the need for the government and the protection cluster to improve the way information is being disseminated to insure that it is available to everyone.

#### **e) Main recommendations**

- *Sharing detailed return plan:* the authorities to share a detailed plan of actions with timeline to humanitarian actors in order to support a dignified and sustainable character of the return.
- *Enhance and expand methods of communication:* as the majority of IDPs still rely on informal mechanism to access information, the government with support from the humanitarian community (protection cluster) to improve access to timely, credible and quality of information to IDPs so that they can make informed decision to return.
- *Increase support to returning IDPs:* a need to spearhead holistic durable solution responses where conditions for voluntary, safety are in place in areas of return.
- *Increase rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure in areas of return:* These sectors include housing, livelihood, water, health and education services, as well as soft skills to run/manage these infrastructure. Including support to persons with specific needs (children and women in psychological distress, persons with disabilities, and the elderly).
- *Access:* the military to grant an unimpeded and timely access to areas of return and allow sufficient time for humanitarian actors to plan and respond accordingly and be allowed to directly monitor the implementation of project.