

School of Humanities and Media Studies

Humanities Department

Human Rights Thesis, 15 hp

Course Code : RK2003 (Module 3)

Supervisor : Judith Narrowe

Internally Displaced Persons Rights in Human Rights Perspective

(Specifically Focused on Pakistani IDPs Example)

**“Basic Rights of IDPs to Attain Equality in Dignity
and Rights”**

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Course Essay

Table of Contents

.....	Part 1
Introduction		3
Aim of the paper.....		4
Questions.....		4
Defining Internally Displaced Persons.....		4
IDPs facts and figures.....		4
IDPs and Human Rights.....		5
Theoretical Framework.....		6
Guiding Principles to secure IDPs rights.....		7
Response to IDPs rights.....		8
What are IDPs Rights?		8
IDPs & Citizen rights.....		9
Non-governmental organizations role.....		10
Darfur case –IDPs in Sudan.....		12
.....	Part 2
Background.....		14
Picture no. 1: Map of northwest Pakistan.....		14
Table no. 1 District-wise IDPs families figure in major conflict districts.....		15
IDPs outside camps.....		15
IDPs inside camps.....		16
Table no. 2: List of the IDPs camps – May 25, 2009- Dawn.....		16
General needs/ rights of IDPs.....		17
Basic human rights		17
Food Items.....		17
Other Items.....		17
Common Medicines.....		17
Specific needs/rights.....		17
.....	Part 3
Abuses of Human Rights inside IDPs camps (Northwest IDPs example).....		18

<i>Basic Human Rights issues of IDPs</i>	19
Food and non-food items	19
Health Issues	20
Health reports.....	20
Medicines & Hygiene Kits.....	21
Prompt Medical facilities and staff.....	21
Hygiene Issues.....	21
Solution: Promotion and awareness of Hygiene.....	22
Water issues	23
Miscellaneous needs	23
<i>Human Rights abuses by targeting Child, Woman and Vulnerable groups</i>	23
Child rights	23
Picture 2: Children are waiting for food Yar Hussain camp Swabi, Northwest Pakistan	24
Child Health	24
Psychological problems.....	25
Education.....	26
Women Issues	27
Picture 3: IRIN: Pregnant women wait to see a doctor in an IDP camp, Swat.	27
Tribal Culture and women	27
Orphan and Widows.....	28
Pregnant Women Issues.....	29
Effectors to improve the human rights conditions of women	31
Elderly people and Disabilities problems in IDPs camps	32
..... Part 4	
Option 1: Restoring IDPs Dignity (with women IDPs example).....	34
Example no.1 Toilets/ washrooms.....	35
Example no.2 Kitchen sets & food.....	35
Example no.3 Healthcare.....	36
Option 2: Resettlement & Rehabilitation.....	37
Abbreviations	39
Literature References	40

Part 1

Introduction

News of militant/armed conflicts, have been on popular media since 9-11. These conflicts have brought much tensions and insecurity in Pakistan's societies. In the conflict regions, many people had fled from their homes to find secure shelters; many of them were forced to leave their homes by authorities. This causes huge displacement crisis in Pakistan's history, and led to serious human rights violence in the country. These conflicts are continued; Government of Pakistan, Militants groups and some foreign countries are blamed for the present displacement crises in Pakistan. Being a citizen of the country, the news of human rights violence and huge displacement in the country made me worried concerning the condition of the civilians who remained in the middle of those conflicts. Many questions have been striking in my mind, for example, I was interested to know that who is going to provide security to these displaced people? NGOs and Government role to improve the situation? Further, if these people are getting equal citizen rights, and if any rehabilitation and resettlement plans are made?

This paper would highlight the human rights issues by using specific examples of Pakistani IDPs. The 1st part of this paper is a general talk about the human rights discussion of IDPs. I will start this paper by defining IDPs, what are their rights? Efforts made to develop and protect IDPs rights; and cases of IDPs abuses around the world, role of government and non-governmental organizations to secure IDPs rights. Further I will cite the theoretical structure and raise questions which would be answered during this paper. The next part would talk about the background of the Pakistani IDPs. In the 3rd part of the paper, I will discuss the situation inside camps and talk in details about IDPs basic rights; Human Rights violation by targeting women, children, and other vulnerable groups inside camps. In the last part of the paper, I would try to find a suitable answer to IDPs problems by giving two alternative proposals. The 1st option may give IDPs women rights by restoring their dignity. In option no 2, I talk about resettlement & rehabilitation of IDPs, and giving them a chance to live a good life worthy of respect and dignity.

Aim of the paper

The aim of this essay is to highlight and discuss the humanitarian crisis of the internally displaced persons in camps; this essay would try to discuss, how IDPs issues are related to Human Rights abuses; my focus would particularly be the IDPs issues and their solutions with specific example of Northwest Pakistan's IDPs.

Questions

In this paper I am going to answer some of the following questions:

- Who are IDPs and what are their rights?
- Are there any efforts to protect and develop IDPs rights?
- What role governments and NGOs play to promote and protect IDPs HR?
- What are the major issues faced by IDPs inside camps?
- How IDPs issues relate to human rights abuses?
- Is there any hope for IDPs and how one can fix IDPs problems?

Defining Internally Displaced Persons

We can define Internally displaced persons as *"persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border"*(Bayefsky, Joan & Arthur, p.20)¹

IDPs facts and figures

After the WWII, there was much concern to protect human rights situation all over the world. During the cold wars around the world, huge displacement took place within different countries during internal arms/ethnic conflicts. Millions of IDPs, who were uprooted by arms conflict or ethnic strife faced human rights violence. In 2002, there were estimated between 20-25 millions IDPs in the world (Phuong, p.1). Internally displacement is a worldwide problem and millions of the people displaced in Africa and

¹ Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Introduction, para. 2

Asia. These all Internal displacements of the people are only the result of the conflicts or the violations of the Human Rights but also sometime by the natural disasters. One of the major examples of the IDPs by the war can be given of Afghanistan, where over 2 million people were internally displaced by the US war to over through the Taliban governance. In 2004 natural disaster of Tsunami displaced many hundreds of thousands people in Indonesia. In most case IDPs have always same urgent needs which are: shelter, food, water, health and security etc. The United Nations estimates that almost 1% of world's population is internally displaced (2008, NU). I want the reader to understand some more facts concerning internally displaced persons. Many people may mix IDPs with refugees and may wrongly call them refugees as primary both are linked with displacement. IDPs are the people who have not crossed an international border to find shelter unlike refugees, but they remain inside their home countries. IDPs are often in a more desperate situation compared to those of refugees, and no international agency has a formal mandate to aid them. They are at the forefront of the humanitarian agenda. Although the reasons which make IDPs to flee their areas are common to those of refugees e.g.: armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations etc.

IDPs and Human Rights

From last one century human dignity gained very much importance in the social and political discourses of Human Rights. It is based on the idea of inherent human dignity, that every human being is born with equal dignity, and should be respected and loved being human, and should not be humiliated. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other two UN Covenants on Rights (1966) ground human rights solely on dignity. Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher defines dignity as “absolute inner value” and which is priceless. Human rights flow from the idea of inherent human Dignity; and has taken place as key principles of the Human Right Act. A person's dignity is compromised by inequality and humiliation, and it is an abuse of human rights. These issues are further supported by the International covenants of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights & Civil and Political Rights. Freedom to enjoy basic civil, socio-political and cultural rights is a part of human rights issues. Human rights include right such as, right to life and liberty and equality. Every individual should have to equal

access to a standard life which may include many rights such as, right to food, right to work, shelter, healthcare and the right to education etc.; which also includes the social and cultural rights of all citizen of a state.

The individual rights include the right to life, the right to equality, the right to privacy, religion, and right to practise and protection of his/her social and cultural values are very much related to Internally Displaced Persons issues in this paper. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights further proclaims that everyone should get equal rights and opportunities to live a standard life. It also stresses on the right of people to live wherever they want; People should be free to stay or leave their country and if they want to come back to their country they should be allowed to come back, “Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country” (Streich, A.13)². Along with governments many non-government organizations (NGOs) are working to promote human rights, goal can be achieved only when they (government & non-government institutes) work together not only to make new plans to promote human rights but also make efforts to implement and protect these rights.

Theoretical Framework

The core framework of this essay is based on the 1st article of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which dictates that “*All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights*. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”(Streich, Article 1)³ This article works as the foundation of human rights which gives every human being an equal rights and opportunity to maintain dignity. Human Rights issues related to human dignity must be taken very seriously and should not be ignored at any level; no one should have right to humiliate others. Many human rights issues are not always visible, issues such as: privacy, security, equality, protection of social and cultural values etc. In this paper I am going to apply theoretical approach of “all human being are equal in dignity and rights” to defend IDPs rights.

² Article 13 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights

³ Article 1 – Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

Guiding Principles to secure IDPs rights

Internally displaced persons were not protected by the 1951 Refugee Convention, unlike refugees. The displacement of millions of people within the borders of their home countries causes serious humanitarian challenges in different regions of the world. There was a need to show more concerns to address some specific IDPs issues “which cannot be solved by traditional methods of protection used in the refugee context” (Phuong, p.2). The Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the request of the UN Commission on Human Rights, appointed Francis M. Deng of Sudan as the first Representative of the UN Secretary-General on internally displaced persons. This was a 1st major effort to promoting and disseminating the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement at the national, regional and international levels, undertaking country missions, and conducting policy-oriented research. In April 2004, the Commission called upon the Secretary-General to create a new mechanism to build on the work of the prior Representative and to bring a further focus on the human rights of internally displaced persons. Dr. Walter Kälin as a new Representative on the human rights of internally displaced persons & representative had submitted annual reports to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly. This work served to promote respect for the human rights of the IDPs, and raised human rights and protection concerns at the international level as well, and further, helped to strengthen the cooperation and integrated attention to IDPs’ human rights in the UN system agencies, departments and programs. Building on the work of his predecessor and pursuant to UN Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/55, the Representative’s role is to:

- (1) engage in coordinated advocacy in favor of the protection and respect of the human rights of IDPs,
- (2) continue and enhance dialogues with Governments as well as non-governmental organizations and other actors,
- (3) strengthen the international response to internal displacement, and
- (4) mainstream the human rights of IDPs into all relevant parts of the UN system.⁴

⁴ Source: http://www.law.georgetown.edu/idp/english/representative_un.html

We may not find any effective international convention on the rights of IDPs before Walter Kälin's mandate. His normative framework for IDPs protection is much stronger today than it was few years before. 'The Guiding Principles' on Internal Displacement, has promoted IDPs rights and gained international recognition as the key international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, since then it has become the common benchmark for protection and care of the IDPs during conflicts situations.⁵

Response to IDPs rights

In January 2002, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners established OCHA to address IDPs needs. The UNDP, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and the NGO community are the part of OCHA international secondary staff. OCHA's main work is to assist UN emergency relief worldwide to provide support to the needs of IDPs in crises. UNHCR is working effectively for displaced persons and work to assist IDPs on the UN secretary-General request. It works to protect IDPs abuse on the basic of racial, religious, ethnic or political grounds and further it protect the relief workers and helper during displacement works. The ICRC is another organization which has been working to protect and assist IDPs during arms conflicts. Its activities are mainly designed to restore acceptable living conditions of IDPs and enable people to maintain an environment that is as close as possible to what they are used to until they can become self-reliant again by ensuring that people can meet their basic needs. AUC has established within its ranks the Humanitarian, Refugees and Displacement Unit, which coordinates AU policy on forced displacement issues, including internal displacement matters. IDMC was established in 1998 by the Norwegian Refugee Council, is the leading international body monitoring conflict-induced internal displacement worldwide. It conducts training and advocacy, it runs an online database providing broad information and analysis on internal displacement in some 50 countries.

What are IDPs Rights?

⁵ 'The Guiding Principles' is being used as a standard by many HR organizations to address IDPs problems: http://www.brookings.edu/speeches/2010/0308_internal_displacement_kalin.aspx

IDPs those displaced during different types of arms/ethnic conflicts have faced many serious humanitarian issues including their settlement or return back to their homes. IDPs legally remain under the protection of their own government, even though the government might be the cause of their displacement. They retain all their rights and protection under both their government and international humanitarian laws. Article 25 of UDHR dictates regarding citizens/people that all people have equal right to the basic needs to maintain a healthy life:

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same protection.” (A. 25)⁶

I found the above article of UDHR very interesting, it involves almost all the sensitive aspects of human rights which in most of the cases I observed are being violated inside IDPs camps. People have lack of access to medical care and necessary social services; UDHR also stresses upon the special care of motherhood and childhood and gives rights of protection to widows, elder people, sick and disable people. These groups are the main focus in my paper.

IDPs & Citizenship rights

By understanding the fact that these IDPs are not refugee rather than citizen of the country, we can realize what kind of rights they would claim as being the citizen of a state. I assume that citizens’ rights are being protected by constitution of all the governments in the world. My question is to what extent constitution of Pakistani protects its citizens’ rights? Further at what degree its IDPs human rights have been violated in the context of the Universal Declaration? In the case of Pakistani one can find many cases of HR violence of IDPs related to security, health and basic needs. Constitution of Pakistan clearly states about the equality of its citizens’ rights; in article 25 constitution says:

⁶ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 - Article 25

- 1) All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law.
- 2) There shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex
- 3) Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the protection of women and children.(Article 25)⁷

This constitute openly demonstrates the equal rights of all citizen and protection of the women and children rights. In the next coming parts I would also try to demonstrate the level of efforts government of Pakistan has made to protects the rights of its internally displaced citizens, and if these citizens are satisfied with the conditions of their IDPs camps?

Non-governmental organizations role

Many famous NGOs are actively supporting the rights of IDPs globally; they are calling upon different governments and other authorities for the promoting and protecting of their citizens rights. Amnesty International is one of them which works for the rights of IDPs around the world and exposes human rights abuses and failures in their protection.

According to Amnesty International, those people who are forced to move within their own country because of war, persecution or environmental disasters are considered IDPs; it gives the following key facts about IDPs:

- The numbers of internally displaced persons are currently estimated to be around 24.5 million – 0.4% of the world’s population.
- The majority of refugees and IDPs are in Asia and Africa, which between them host a total of 9.2 million refugees and 18.1 million IDPs.⁸

Amnesty is raising voice for the rights of the people of Iraq war where almost two million are internally displaced. There are in desperate need of financial and other basic assistances to ease the situation. It calls on the countries (UK, USA and other states) which were involved in the conflict to increase their support which is so far remains little. Many NGOs stress upon governments and other authorities to respect the basic rights of the internally displaced persons and they also oppose the forcible relocation of people on

⁷ Constitution of Pakistan – Part II Fundamental Rights and Principles of Policy Fundamental Rights and Principles of Policy, Article 25

⁸ Statistic from Amnesty International website: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/refugees-and-migrants>

their religion, ethnic origin, sex, colour or language etc. NGOs have efficiently worked to protect HR concerns of IDPs internationally. Along with these NGOs working actively for the welfare and betterment of IDPs, there is a sad story of Hoax NGOs, which are minting money at IDPs' cost, they are not registered organizations and they are serving their own interests. Sometimes such organizations or fraud groups function to defame the NGOs which are honestly working for the rights of the deprived people around the world. The specific focus of my paper is IDPs in northwest Pakistan; where many NGOs are working actively along with some Hoax organization,

Here is some data on efforts done by different NGOs. There are many charity organizations working in Pakistan to raise donations and to help IDPs, some important names are as following:

OXFAM - Oxfam is providing emergency relief to around 360,000 women, men and children affected by the fighting in north-west Pakistan.⁹

UNICEF - In May 2008, UNICEF appealed for an additional \$41.4 million to provide urgent assistance to more than 2 million internally displaced people, including over 136,000 living in camps. UNICEF's vital emergency response continues.¹⁰

SAVE THE CHILDREN - Save the Children needs your support to help meet the most critical needs of children and families who are fleeing the violence. Even a small amount can provide relief for children.¹¹

EHDI FOUNDATION – has been in the business of providing social services like medical care, emergency services, air ambulances, burial services, old homes, child welfare services, abused women safe houses and training facilities for the disadvantaged.¹²

According to iDMC¹³ there are 27,100,000 IDPs around the world¹⁴. Here, I am going to talk about region of IDPs in Africa which I found very shocking.

⁹ <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/donate/pakistan-swat/index.php>

¹⁰ <http://www.unicef.ca/portal/SmartDefault.aspx?at=2363>

¹¹ <http://www.savethechildren.org/emergencies/asia/pakistan-2009/pakistan-conflict.html>

¹² <http://www.edhifoundation.com/edhi-donations.asp>

¹³ iDMC - Internal Displaced Monitoring Center

Darfur case –IDPs in Sudan

There is an ongoing guerrilla conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan. Sudan has one of the world largest displacement; figure reaches to 4.9 millions IDPs. I have found it one of the most intense situations amongst many IDPs regions. Darfur conflict began in February 2003 against the genocide of non-arabised Sudanese in favour of Sudanese Arab. An estimated 2.7 million people had at that time been displaced from their homes, mostly seeking refuge in camps, and that created immense humanitarian crisis.

Women and girls in IDPs camps live in constant fear of sexual violence and they get no justice. The number of actual rape and sexual assaults is impossible to know because of the cultural stigmas (Human Rights Watch).¹⁵ In these camps people are facing issues such as, food shortages, malnutrition, disease, violence and abuses. In March 2009, over a dozen aid organizations from Darfur were given ultimatum to leave the region by leaving millions of displaced people at risk. "We have had our health clinics forcibly closed by the government... Waterborne disease is the immediate concern; in the longer term, it's increased infant mortality."¹⁶ Kalma is the oldest and the main camp of Darfur, where many are badly in need of humanitarian aid; many babies with distended bellies, chronic malnutrition, people with ringworm and presence of life-threatening diseases such as dysentery are abiding in the camp.¹⁷

The Government of Sudan has launched a new strategy for Darfur in 2010, this is to return IDPs to their home yet it does not recognize the right of IDPs to choose where they want to settle. "be protected against forcible return to or resettlement in any place where their life, safety, liberty and/or health would be at risk" (IRIN, 19 October 2010).¹⁸

Overall situation in Darfur and other Sudan camps are so depressing, where people are dying with diseases and lacks with basic healthcare facilities. Government is playing an

¹⁴ <http://www.idmc.org/>

¹⁵ A report by Human Rights Watch: <http://www.realtruth.org/news/080501-001-africa.html>

¹⁶ <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123655809808566323.html>

¹⁷ <http://edjofrank.wordpress.com/interesting-to-read/darfur-suffers-while-the-wrorld-looks-away/>

¹⁸ <http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/%28httpCountrySummaries%29/551D60D0BF2FB3ABC12577FF00598165?OpenDocument&count=10000>

unfair role by supporting one ethnic group on other; this has destroyed the peace in the region. Women abuses are prevailed; women are raped and sexually assaulted in the camps. Situation in these camps is really hopeless, sending IDPs back to their home is unfair, as whole infrastructure is destroyed by conflicts and there are no prior rehabilitation products for these returnees.

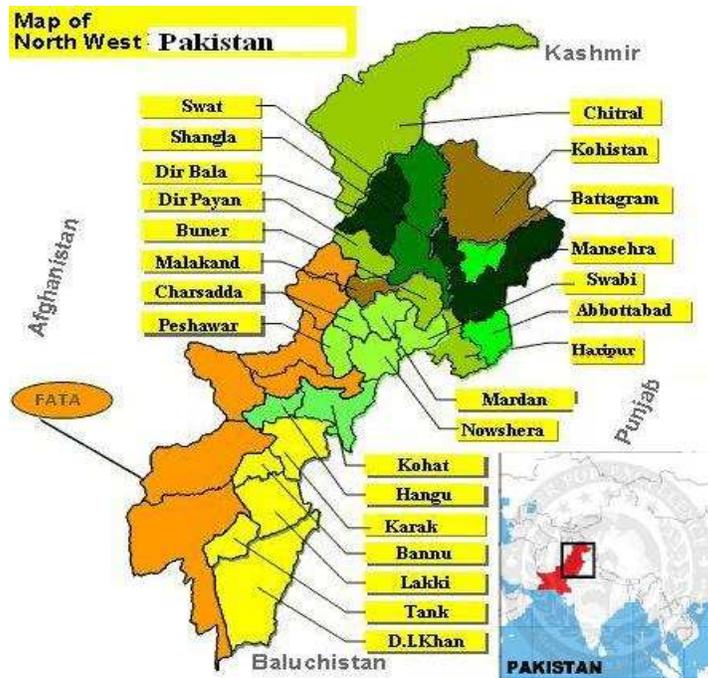
There is a huge displacement around the world because of different type of conflicts. When we see IDPs camps, one does not find much hope for IDPs worldwide. In many cases governments are involved in war crime and ethnic cleansing of IDPs. Genocide, women sexual assault and cases of IDPs abuses are so common in IDPs camps.

Part 2

Background

Internal displacement has continued in northwest Pakistan at least for last seven years, it reached at massive scale from 2008 to 2009. Northwest Pakistan areas mainly include Kyber-Pukhtunkhwa (KP) and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). As I mentioned already that these conflicts started after September 11, 2001 terrorist incident, USA involved in the region in a campaign against terrorism. Pakistani government is the biggest allies in this counter terrorism campaign. Pakistan has been opening many operations to eliminate these extremist elements from the society which causes conflicts in different regions of Pakistan and further it devastates peace and progress in many regions. In August 2008 the government of Pakistan began big operations in FATA (bajaur agency), sparking the first major displacement in the region. At the end of the April 2009 more than 556,000 people were affected. In early may 2009 military operations in NWFP, prompted a sudden and massive movement of people, with some 2.7 millions IDPs registered with the government. As of the 31 December 2009, some around 1.9 millions IDPs yet

have to return their home, over 10% of those were in camps.¹⁹ Further monsoon flood worsen the situation and added millions more in the IDPs figure and gave a tough



¹⁹ UNHCR report: <http://www.unhcr.org/4c08f2939.html>

challenge to the Pakistan government to cope with situation and provide IDPs with shelters and other basic needs.

The causes of displacement from 2003-2009 have included human rights abuses by militant groups, conflicts between tribal leaders and militant Islamic rivals. Pakistani army operations to eliminate the militant groups are the principle cause of internal displacement crisis in northwest Pakistan. More IDPs have fled in fear of impending violence because of the expansion of insurgency and government counter-insurgency in these areas. In July 2010, flood had worsened the situation of displacement and affected nearly 20 millions Pakistanis. There were over 2 millions IDPs registered in different camps. This flooding has particularly affected populations of the northwest areas which had already been affected by conflicts. Many IDPs live out of camps, were received by their families, friends and relatives, other IDPs were forced to seek shelter in camps. Till the mid of 2010 there were around 1.4 millions IDPs registered by government in Pakistan. IDPs living in camps are facing a lot of problems and human rights abuses. These are very serious issues and need to be addressed. I would try to discuss IDPs problems/ issues in the following part of this paper. District-wise IDPs families figure in major conflict districts is as follow:

	District	Total Families	IDPs/Total P.
1	Bajaur	97,842	48%
2	Mohmand	44,821	40%
3	S. Waziristan	60,753	5%
4	Buner	73,359	90%
5	Malakand	51,630	6%
6	Shangla	68,675	7%
7	Swat	298,201	38%
8	Dir	14,6953	16%

2-a.²⁰ Table no.1

IDPs out side camps

According to some sources (ERU/PRC) total figure of IDPs families is 261,749 in northwest Pakistan, and around 90% of these IDPs either stay with their relatives/friends

²⁰ Source: Nadra (helpidp.org)

or on rental accommodations, rest of the 10% (24,932) has chosen camps to stay. Resent IDPs figure is around 2 millions in northwest Pakistan, and most of them live outside camps to save from the indignity of camps. Even it is observed that IDPs who manage to take refuge in the houses of their relatives and friends are much better compared to those who are forced to stay in camps.²¹ According to District Nazim of Mardan, 1.23 million IDPs are living with host families in Mardan, government schools building are also being used to give shelter to IDPs and over 600 schools are being used for this purpose.

Inside camps

There are 11 major camps are operating by the government (NUCHR) and other NGOs help to cope with the situation and provide basic food and non-food facilities to these IDPs. In the start of major army operation in northwest Pakistan, millions of the people displaced, IDPs camps accommodate over 150,000 IDPs in different camps. List of the camps operating in the northwest region to support IDPs is as follow:

Camp Name	Families	Individuals
Mazdoor Abad	976	5372
Jalala Mardan	1064	6402
Sheikh Yasin	1667	9959
Sheikh Shahzad	1354	8065
Shah Mansoor	1998	12547
Yar Hussain	1628	8479
Jalozai Nowshera	8563	50209
Polosa Charsadda	550	3372
Palai camp	615	4065
Rangmala camp	182	1459

2-b.²² Table no. 2

Those who live in camps, consider their life as “awful”, they are not happy with the facilities of camps, although many NGOs and foreign partners are involved there to make

²¹ Life inside camps is hard: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=82886>

²² List of the IDPs camps – May 25, 2009- source: Dawn News

sure that these IDPs are not deprived from their basic human rights. After receiving much foreign aid situation of IDPs in these camps is still poor.

General needs/rights of IDPs in camps

Political leaders and government always claim to server these IDPs by providing them all basic facilities/needs in order to retain their human rights/dignity. I would list some of basic human needs in IDPs camps.

Basic human rights:

These are the basic rights of life that every IDP requires:

Shelters, Food, Water, Health and security

Food items:

Food items such as: Flour, Sugar, Pulses, Rice, Edible Oil, Tea, Dry Milk (or Tetra Pak), Nutritional Supplements for children, Biscuits.

Other requirements:

Such as Tents, Water Coolers, Heaters, Plastic sheets, Mospel, Soaps, Caps for children, Baby Formula Milk, Clothes, Mosquito Nets and Toys for Children etc.

Common Medicines:

ORS, IV Fluids, Septran, Amoxil, Paracetamol (Tabs and Syrups), Flagyl, Mosquito Repellents, Anti Scabies Creams.

Specific needs/ rights

Here are specific items which are required sometimes as a specific needs, such as: Water tanks, Toilets/ washrooms, Kitchen sets, Hygiene Kits, Tents, Bedding tulai, Medicines, Electricity, Fans/Heaters etc.

There is no dispute if government does not give these basic rights/facilities to IDPs of northwest Pakistan. I think every family has been given shelter and food. Apparently things are alright in IDPs camps; but in the reality, life inside the camps is very hard. Lack of facilities and understanding of IDPs cultural and social needs, hostile weather, mismanagement, unavailability of health services, and low priority to child's education and disable persons make the life of IDPs miserable inside the camps. In the following paper I would like to highlight the basic and major human rights issues which are faced by IDPs inside the camps of Northwest Pakistan.

Part 3

Abuses of Human Rights inside IDPs camps (*Northwest IDPs example*)

OCHA is the major international partner working along with Pakistani government in Pakistan to assist and response on the basic needs of these IDPs during armed conflicts in the country. Living conditions are not so pleasant inside IDPs camps, over 105,000 people live in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa camps according to OCHA. People are encountering so many problems inside camps. Some statistic and reports even show that IDPs are not happy with camps facilities, they are sick, physical and mentally disturbed and missing there homes and possessions. Aziza Bibi, 65, said: “All of us have been sick with fever since we came here, especially my grandson who is six months old. We are very worried about him.”^{4b} over 40% people living in camps have left their lands and castles behind and they want to be independent but they perhaps, feel that camps administration had taken their freedom and they can not move freely or do whatever they want. Some IDPs even compared their treatment in campus as cattle: “Life here is difficult. We cannot adjust to a situation where we live just like cattle, are given orders by people who run the camp and where we have no homes and no land,” said Muhammad Wasim, 35, a farmer from Bajaur.^{4c} Sense of indignity can be seen in these camps; in the above cases IDPs are not given respect and freedom inside camps. There are many human right abuses which are making IDPs life harder for example, according to IRAN report, IDPs in jalala camp complain that there is always a shortage of food, women and children are suffering from different diseases, no proper arrangement of toilets and water facilities. “Because they have to remain in tents, the majority of women and children are suffering from scabies, diarrhoea and high fever” (IRIN News)²³.

The other major challenge that is faced by IDPs was hot summer, it is too hot in Pakistan and there was no arrangement of fans and air-coolers to keep camps environment cool. Families in these camps call the current situations as “awful”. “It’s very hot and we are not used to this heat,” said Sher Bahadur Khan, 24. “Sitting in tents is like being in a ‘tandoor’ [clay oven]” (Ibid). Some IDPs came from high mountain areas to the down

²³ <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=82886>

land camps so it should be hotter compared to high areas. Most of the camps are so poorly made that they do not have many basic facilities and security arrangements. They do not have cooking ovens inside camps: “The facilities are very poor. there are no proper cooking arrangements and no security,” said Hussain Khan, another IDP from Bajaur.²⁴ Health and medical facilities are not always available for the IDPs. Only in north-western Swat, over 6,000 pregnant women are displaced during the Pakistani security and militants conflict, now many of them are still staying at camps and who may need doctors at any time, even in emergency cases women have to wait for very long to see a doctor.

Basic Human Rights issues of IDPs

IDPs have always some specific and urgent need which they have a right to claim from their governments, unlike refugees; some of these rights are as follow:

Food and non-food items

Equity in the distribution of relief items is very important; most of the vulnerable persons could not easily access food and non-food items so easily. Children on the other hand also sometimes deprived by food & non-food items. Widows and orphans do not willing to leave the privacy of their tents which would risk exposure to strangers, men as well as women. They sometime do not have male family member to receive their food and other non-food items. The efforts should be made to make it possible that goods would be distributed equally to all IDPs.

Food is essential for survival and it is certainly one of the major concerns of IDPs. Local contractors are hired for the provision of meals. These contractors prepare food in big pots called ‘Degs’. People have to stand in queues to get the food. Most of the queues are filled with men and children and women are not seen there, they stay at their camps and do not get there share of food. There is no proper timing, sometimes there is no breakfast even and in most cases IDPs have tea and chapatti in breakfast, daal/beef with chapatti during lunch and daal and rice are expected in dinner. Food is not of good quality and

²⁴ <http://southasia.oneworld.net/todayshadlines/idps-living-like-cattle-in-pakistan-camps>

most of the IDPs may not be happy with their meals. One other sensitive food issue is to provide a separate food for elderly people who can't digest heavy food. Children also should have different food to eat, as well as women who are pregnant. In fact, there is only one type of meal for everyone to eat; food needs for the sick are also not being met accordingly. Such unbalanced food consumption also causes mild gastroenteritis in IDPs; many of them have been referred to hospitals. Other problems that exist can be linked with the consumption of spicy and heavy food; these people are not used to eating such type of food. Already many IDPs are suffering from different diseases and they may need a simple meal.

More contractors should be hired to meet the food requirements, there should be a check to make sure healthy and balanced food has been delivered to IDPs. Food should be supplied in time, and a plan should be made where IDPs do have to wait for hours to get their food.

Health Issues

Health is one of the most important issues in the IDP camps. There is a serious need for quality medicines and treatment. There were few dispensaries and quality medicines, and lack of proper treatment. It is always hard for the sick IDP to access a doctor, there are a number of sick women, children and elderly people in the camps. Such poor medical services are causing a large number of people in IDP camps to suffer from diseases like diarrhea, dysentery, skin diseases, eye sores and throat infections. The other major cause of spreading these diseases is lack of awareness and consumption of unsafe drinking water, the smell from filthy toilets and inappropriate food, etc.

Health reports

Latest information on health partners and health needs in the current crisis in Pakistan, WHO report includes, 18 health facilities at IDP camps, nine mobile clinics and 153 public health facilities in hosting districts submitted communicable disease surveillance reports. Findings are as follows:

- Acute diarrhoea cases registered are 10% of total consultations
- 19% of consultations among children under 5 are due to acute diarrhea

- Acute respiratory infection (ARI) is the leading cause of consultations (21% of all age group, all reported cases)²⁵

According to Pakistan Red Crescent Society report, most common health problems facing by IDPs in camps are malaria, diarrhoea, acute respiratory infection and scabies, In addition to diarrhoea and ARI, some IDPs are also suffering from heat stroke (WHO)²⁶ Above report shows the seriousness of diseases at camps, there is an urgent need to provide healthcare facilities at camps to improve IDPs health.

Medicines & Hygiene Kits:

Medicines and Hygiene kits are often unavailable at camps. Below is the list of some of the most common/emergency required medicines at camps:

- Vaccines for malaria, cholera, typhoid, influenza.
- Pain killers
- Water purification tablets
- Life saving drugs
- Antibiotics medicines
- miscellaneous

Efforts should be made to make sure that all vaccines and medicines are available at camps for the patients.

Prompt Medical facilities and staff

More doctors

More trained staff

Labour rooms

Training classes for IDPs etc

Hygiene Issues

Lack of education and low hygiene priority in IDPs camps and lack of awareness and facilities such as: water, soap, washrooms and medical facilities making things more complicated. The overall hygiene conditions in camps and host families are deteriorating every day. Lack of space in camps also created problems for the IDPs to maintain

²⁵ Statistics from WHO :

http://www.who.int/hac/crises/pak/sitreps/health_cluster_bulletin_23june2009/en/index.html

²⁶ <http://www.who.int/hac/crises/pak/sitreps/19may2009/en/index.html>

cleanliness as large number of family members live in one room or tent. It is expected that the unhygienic environment and overall situation would cause another disaster, a health disaster. There is a very low literacy rate amongst IDPs in camps. It was also a bit difficult for the humanitarian agencies to act quickly and provide them basic means for maintaining personal and environmental hygiene. Unavailability of water in toilets use is also a serious case of unhygienic and unpleasant conditions in IDPs camps. New toilets system is also one of the causes of health issues. Most of the IDPs came from the rural areas and they have difficulties in using latest provided closed toilets. “There is not enough water; the toilets are in a terrible state and ...,” said Bahadur Khan (Down News).²⁷ Most of the IDPs in the children, women and adults are not washing themselves, nail clipping and hair cut is out of question due to sudden displacement and lack of facilities. Due to the unhygienic conditions some of children and adults are suffering from diseases such as, diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid and eye infections in IDPs camps. ‘Unhygienic conditions cause skin, eye infections at camps’ (Down News).

Promotion and awareness of Hygiene

Hygiene promotion could surely help IDPs to learn and develop good hygiene practices, this would help to prevent diseases and develop positive attitudes towards good health practices. Regarding the issue, how unhygienic conditions are formed? Awareness should be promoted on this as a precaution to sickness and diseases. I think government or NGOs should act on this unhygienic condition and should plan to educate IDPs and create awareness among the IDPs regarding important issues of hygiene in order to keep them healthy. This is to train some IDPs activists (male and female) which can further train all IDPs after creating such a hygiene environment we can prevent many IDPs from different dangerous diseases. Some of these illnesses are caused by dirty utensils and spoiled food. Balanced diet, properly cooked and some light exercise ensure good health. The other most important thing is to provide IDPs facilities like, bath soap, dish washing soap, detergents, towels, water purifier tabs, sanitary cloth, tooth brush and toothpaste to promote a healthy environment. There is a need for developing long-term awareness programs for people. NGOs and government bodies should come forward to create

²⁷ <http://news.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/letters-to-the-editor/child-protection-in-emergencies-090>

awareness, particularly in rural areas, about the benefits of hygiene and cleanliness as most of the common diseases they suffer from are caused because of poor hygiene practices and environment.

Water issues

Availability of the water at IDPs camps is very poor. The water available at camps is unsafe to drink and families have to use the same water tank for their toilet as well drinking purpose. In the start there was a great need of water purification tablets, and later it was observed and water purification tablets were provided to families. Only a few women use these tablets due to lack of orientation.

There is a need for water tanks to store water. Lack of availability of water creates unhygienic situation in IDPs and opens door to many diseases. There should be reserves for both drinker water and water for toilet use/bathe separately; Relief partners should make sure that IDPs drink clean water.

Miscellaneous needs

Tents

Bedding & Quilt

Child spaces

Electricity

Fans/Heaters

Clothes, etc.

Human Rights abuses by targeting Children, Women and Vulnerable groups

Child rights

Children are making up a huge percentage of IDPs families, there are over 60% children of total IDPs population stating from a few months to 11 years old. Children are sensitive compared to adults, and at risk to diseases and sickness in IDPs camps. In the following heading I would address some of the child related issues in IDPs camps.



Picture 2²⁸

Child Health

The major and most important issue related to ID child is health; a huge number of these ID children are facing different type of disease at camps. According to WHO representative Dr Sulaiman Durrani most of the cases they received at hospital are children, “70 percent of those being treated were children under five. Severe dehydration, skin and eye infections and malnutrition have also been reported (Reuters).²⁹ There is a considerable need of healthcare for children at camps. Lack of staff, medicines and arrangement making the situation worsen. Because of the lack of facility to facilitate in hospitals many sick children have to be admitted on sharing beds. The new born are facing serious health problems, according to study, over 70% new born are underweight and many are severely malnourished (IPS News).³⁰ So many ID children are sick in camps, they have different type of diseases because of harsh weather, bad quality food, impure drinking water and unpleasant conditions inside camps, many of them have

²⁸ Picture: Children are waiting for food in line for hours Yar Hussain camp Swabi, Northwest Pakistan

²⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6815D520100902>

³⁰ <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47595>

physical stresses and they feel homelessness "My son has severe diarrhoea. There is no improvement. He is pale, and not responding to breastfeeding," Jamala Bibi of Buner in the Shah Mansoor camp, Swabi.³¹

Serious gastroenteritis threat amongst children received at the Gulshan-i-Maymar relief camp in Labour Square, the major causes for that is the consumption of impure water and contemplated food. It caused serious health problems in IDPs camps, according to some report it has claimed several lives so far. All victims were children. Six deaths by gastroenteritis were reported from the Gulshan-i-Maymar relief camp alone.¹³

Many children with weak immune system may have risk to infections there is maximum protection needed. Gastroenteritis symptoms are very common in the camps where IDPs are drinking impure water and eating unhealthy food. New born are also facing much health problems, there is many cases where newborn are suffering from tetanus.¹⁴

Psychological problems

Displacement brings serious psychological problems in many children living in IDPs camps. These children over a period of time develop a wide range of psychological problems including depression, phobias, acute stress disorder, post-traumatic stress syndrome, and poor academic performance. Most of IDPs children scantily dressed in dirty clothes; they have developed medical illness especially irritating skin diseases, which have made children more short-tempered and cranky. Feelings of insecurity, helplessness, and stress are common among displaced children. "There are two main problems facing the children here. They are traumatized - they have lost their homes, everything" (Reuters)³². "The women and children in particular have suffered. During the displacement their physical needs were met but not their emotional ones. I have seen 10-year-olds who behave like infants, sucking their thumbs or trying to sit in their mother's laps," a health worker at IDPs said (IRIN News)³³.

³¹ <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47595>

³² <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6815D520100902>

³³ <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=88600>

Education

The good thing is that small children are duly engaged in educational activities. UNICEF is providing primary educational service to these children, including school bags and books. Since government schools are closed in Mardan, and teachers were free, these government school teachers have offered their services to teach children in tent schools.

There are enormous affects on the education on the IDPs, most of the children are out of schools and most of the government schools are turned into IDPs camps to give emergency shelter to IDPs affected by military conflicts. Yet there are many problem related to education. According to a study made to understand the educational problems and needs of IDPs have given following results, it includes a questionnaire data as well. I would try to break down this into the following different points:

- Majority of the IDPs students suffer inferiority complex due to displacement.
- Majority of the students were not satisfied with the camps teachers
- Books were not available for students.
- AV aids were not being used comprehensively in camps for the motivation of student.
- There were no recreation and games facilities in camps as well in schools.
- In adequacy and leakage of funds was also found.
- Majority of the respondents were not satisfied with the NGO's role.
- The respondents were not in favour of talibanization.
- Majority of the respondents were in favour of army control.
- Majority of respondents stated that Taliban were responsible for such a terrible situation.
- Majority of the respondents were satisfied with the behaviour of school staff.
- Lack of provision of guidance and counselling was also noticed ()³⁴.

After the children other major group which is facing human rights abuses is women.

34

http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?_nfpb=true&_ERICExtSearch_SearchValue_0=ED505930&ERICExtSearch_SearchType_0=no&accno=ED505930

Women rights

Women's issues are the most prominent aspect at IDP camps. Displaced women from Swat, Buner and Dir - the three affected districts - have critical health needs that relief operations must urgently address, says UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, UNFPA's executive director, told IPS in May that the agency was working with partners to provide life-saving services to pregnant women, and psychosocial support and basic hygiene facilities for displaced families.

"We are basing our help on the specific needs of women and families, with a focus on safeguarding human dignity," he said (ERIC Web Portal)³⁵. Shah, the provincial health minister promised his government was assessing the reproductive health needs of IDPs, and apart from establishing health services in the camps, nearby hospitals would also be provided with the means to support the needs of displaced women (IPS News).³⁶



Picture 3³⁷

Tribal culture and women in camps

In most of the camps of northwest Pakistani IDPs women are almost invisible. We may see girls up to 7 years or so but we can not see young girls and women around. Where are they? Females make up to 70% of IDPs but we can't see; they are there in their tents with dropped entrance. This further adds in the misery of the IDPs women. By remaining inside their tents in the camps they are deprived of human rights. For example they do not go out to the washroom for taking shower as the washing rooms are little away from

³⁵ http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?_nfpb=true&_ERICExtSearch_SearchValue_0=ED505930&ERICExtSearch_SearchType_0=no&accno=ED505930

³⁶ <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47595>

³⁷ Picture 3: IRIN: Pregnant women wait to see a doctor in an IDP camp, Swat

their camps. They do not stand up in the lines to get their food. Other sadness which these IDPs women faced is the weather condition in side camps. In summer weather was so hot, they camps were inside like ovens, they have to remain in such miserable conditions. Most of the doctors at camps are male and they prefer to stay in their tents while they need to check with a doctor. These women say that this is their culture and they can't go out where so many strangers are moving around. There are many cultural restrictions on women, they cannot participation in group meetings, they can interaction with men as well as male staff, and even interaction of women with female staff without the permission of a male member of the family is not possible sometimes. These cultural restrictions also a hindrance to reach many women issues inside camps. This tribal culture adds further in the misery of women and worsens their conditions in camps.

Widows and Orphans

We may find many cases of orphans and widows in IDPs camps; they are facing even tougher conditions compared to average women. Those women have male family members they can stand up in the queues to get relief items and food. As I mentioned above the influence of the cultural norms of the northwest Pakistan region, these women are not willing to go out and stand with other males to get access to food and relief items. In this case they are always deprived and remained behind. They stay in their "ovens", many of those widows and orphans have passed through a miserable incidents (conflicts) which may have taken their husbands, brothers and fathers etc. Now they are dependent on others, remain isolated in camps causes them to be ignored and their right are deprived in camps. The atmosphere of these camps is just adding more in their miseries. These women have many sad stories to tell, who they had lost their beloved one during the conflicts. Hadia, a widow has lost her husband; she is from village Qabaal, she and her husband got injured in a bombardment by the Pakistan Army, killing her husband on the spot.³⁸

³⁸ <http://www.wluml.org/node/5261>

Pregnant Women

According to a UN report, over 60,000 pregnant women have been displaced since the start of military operations on April 2009 in northwest Pakistan at different IDPs camps in Pakistan and many of them were likely to give birth in the next three or four months. Displacement caused a great trouble for the pregnant women; IDPs Camps are not the suitable place for such women to stay.³⁹ There are few trained medics at the camps. There were nearly 6,000 new births in June, of which at least 900 required surgery because of complications and doctors are also concerned about a lack of emergency obstetric and neonatal care in the camps. Pregnant women issues in IDPs camps are very serious and need to be addressed. Now we may find sufficient medicines for pregnant women at some camps but there are no labour rooms or mid-wives in camps. Women are giving birth inside camps most of the time and in some cases they are being shifted to nearby hospitals “Either the deliveries have to be conducted in tents, or the women have to be shifted to hospitals,” said Bakht Sher at camp in northwest Pakistan (IRIN News)⁴⁰. There is no real plan for these pregnant women.

In camps of northwest Pakistan there is a crew of 25 members of government Women Health Workers is working. They said that lack of medicines for pregnant women is a vital problem. There are many 100s pregnant women living in Sheikh Yasin Camp but not enough medicines for these women and there are no facilities in case of emergency. These women are weak and sensitive to adverse climatic conditions. Pregnant women in camps are in real need of better accommodation, multi vitamins, including proper food with milk and fruits etc. a future mother should be healthy and she should stay at clean place with a suitable and healthy climate. These pregnant women should shifted to a reasonably better place with better climatic and health and food facilities. At day time one may see some emergency facilities for pregnant women in camps but on one is there to take care emergency cases in the night time: “If, God forbid, there is an obstetric emergency in the camp after seven in the evening, there are no female medical officers or paramedic staff, such as skilled birth attendants, or lady health visitors to provide

³⁹ <http://spoonfeedin.wordpress.com/2009/05/26/world-over-60000-pregnant-pakistani-women-live-in-relief-camps-un/>

⁴⁰ <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=84524>

assistance,” said Dr. Aurang Zeb, executive director of Health Society, an NGO working in IDP camps in Mardan (IRIN).

Those women who are pregnant or have just delivered are in terrible situations, sometimes they do not have bedding or even a clean sheet for them to sleep on. And many time these new mothers sleeping on the floor without even a straw mat. Such condition is definitely hazardous for both mother and her new born (awid.org)⁴¹. Peshawar-based gynaecologist, Prof. Anjum Wakeel, who has helped establish clinics for women in the IDP camps, says everywhere the new mothers and their infants are facing severe health and nutritional problems because of the overall poor food, sanitation and medical conditions (IPSNews)⁴². Women have to wait for the doctors for a long and there were no proper or emergency facilities available for them and that is a bad example of female human rights humiliation. Over 15 percent of women giving birth would develop complications and might require blood transfusions or surgery. And the conflict situation these IDPs women have, pregnancy-related complications may increase and anaemic found in women may add the potential risk of a childbirth complication. There is a need to save these pregnant women from malaria diseases,” Salma Naheed, program officer with HS said that, there may need medicated mosquito nets to protect these pregnant women from malaria diseases (wluml.org).⁴³ There are many cases in IDPs camps where the women screamed in pain all night till the baby born. This risk the life of moth and new born and in many cases the new born were sick and that further add in the worries of mothers, there should be antenatal care for such women, most pregnant women among the IDPs need antenatal care which is not available according to doctors (IPS News).⁴⁴

According to the UNFPA 18 million displaced by floods in 2010, 70 per cent are women. Almost 1.5 million are in their reproductive age and some 52,500 women are estimated to give birth soon. A huge number of pregnant women are expected to give birth. Many mothers are already in camps with their infants; they feed their children even through there is no milk, over 20% women in these camps are pregnant in the camps. In the face

⁴¹ <http://www.awid.org/eng/Issues-and-Analysis/Issues-and-Analysis/Pakistan-Harrowing-Times-for-Flood-Displaced-Mothers>

⁴² <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47595>

⁴³ <http://www.wluml.org/node/5261>

⁴⁴ <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=47595>

of displacement, disease and hunger, their health problems have been further exacerbated; there is an urgent need for folic acid supplement for pregnant women and milk for nursing mothers. Mothers who are breastfeeding their child should provide with drinking milk so they can be able to breastfeed their child (awid.org)⁴⁵

Providing women IDPs their basic health is a huge human rights issue in camps, women should have given healthcare facilities to live a healthy life. There should be proper trained lady health workers to collect data about pregnant and lactating women, and provide them medical assistance, so they could deliver in normal circumstances and avoid complications.

Some effectors to improve human rights conditions of ID women

To solve the issue of women and birth UNFPA has designed mobile units (MSU) that are equipped with a labour/operation room and skilled staff. “There will be a five-member team in each MSU including a female medical officer, a lady health visitor, a skilled birth attendant, a driver and a helper,” explained UNFPA’s Ali. This unit will work 24-hour in the rural health centres as emergency obstetric care facilities. These centres are still few km away from camps the reason is given that it is to provide safe and secure accommodation for our female staff, MSUs will operate in the day time in the camps but night time it can provide services at rural health centres only (IRIN)⁴⁶.

The UNFPA also has established 36-fully equipped service delivery points for pregnant women. These include 23 mobile service units and 14 existing government health facilities (awid.org).⁴⁷

PPA has set up a special 20-bed ward for newborn babies in Mardan and Swabi district hospitals, especially for IDPs. Well it is a positive step but still need to do a lot on this it is just like a drop in the ocean. The PMA, in collaboration with the SOGP and United

⁴⁵ <http://www.awid.org/eng/Issues-and-Analysis/Issues-and-Analysis/Pakistan-Harrowing-Times-for-Flood-Displaced-Mothers>

⁴⁶ <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=84524>

⁴⁷ <http://www.awid.org/eng/Issues-and-Analysis/Issues-and-Analysis/Pakistan-Harrowing-Times-for-Flood-Displaced-Mothers>

Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has formed teams comprising two midwives, one male nurse and one doctor to visit these camps. Nagina Ilyas (UNOCHA)⁴⁸

Elderly people and Disabilities rights

Displacement camps have many disabled persons and the basic facilities for them are very marginal, they do not have wheelchairs to go out and assistance to use toilets. It is not easy for disable persons to have access even to basic health care services in many camps. However, HRDS along with local NGOs had launched a project to improve the conditions of disable persons; there is a need to raise awareness of disabilities amongst IPDs. "In camps, the majority of disabled persons are excluded. Disability needs to be recognized as a cross-cutting issue in the implementation of service provision in the camps, like water and sanitation, inclusive education, literacy, etc," Niaz Ullah Khan, country director of Sight savers, told IRIN⁴⁹

The resent conflicts in northwest Pakistan have raised the disability figure and many people are getting affected by this war, "As a result of the conflict there may be an increase in the number of the disabled"⁵⁰. According to 'IRIN' media, they have received some calls from camps, telling them about the lacks of facilities for the disable and injured persons, "Some people did suffer injuries of a permanent nature during the fighting, but we have no estimates as to numbers" (UNOCHA)⁵¹. There are few facilities available for the disabled and old people in the camps. Old people who have mobility problem, facing many people they can not move beyond their tent blocks and most of them are survive only because they are getting some help from their family members.

⁴⁸ Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)

⁴⁹ <http://www.rallypakistan.com/action/charity/38-pakistans-internally-displaced-persons-donate.html>

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Integrated Regional Information Networks

Some times lack of awareness also creates disability in some cases and most of the IDPs don't have awareness to see doctors for check-up in northwest Pakistan. "I believed I was nearly blind, but last year some doctors gave me a pair of glasses and now I can see almost perfectly again," said Jamal Muhammad, 70, at the Jalojai Camp, who discovered he was severely short-sighted,⁵² Many IDPs come from distant villages where wheelchairs are not available, and they need it in camps. "Many of the IDPs come from far-flung mountain villages where wheelchairs are unavailable or are of no use anywhere on the steep paths and inclines⁵³, For those disabled and in camps, life is tough. "My elderly father is bed-ridden, and in this heat is basically restricted to our tent," said Dilawar Khan, 30, at Jalojai Camp.⁵⁴

I have mentioned many issues faced by IDPs in camps; these issues are very serious and related to human rights abuses in camps, and need to be addressed. When we are talking about IDPs rights, we talk about the rights of citizens, they have equal rights to healthcare, social needs and security as any citizen of the country should have. IDPs are deprived in many senses, they are forced to leave their homes and properties, and they are also bounded to lose their job/work/businesses and would face financial problems as well. These people need special attention as IDPs are in most cases dependent on their own government and other local/foreign organizations support. Nowadays we see many NGOs involve securing the HR of IDPs yet many of IDPs remain in unfavourable conditions and have not gotten proper attentions.

⁵² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ Ibid

Part 4

Although the basic human needs such as food, shelters and medical care are very much necessary in the IDPs camps, and probably that is always a priority goal of most of the governments and NGOs to achieve. But in the most cases which I have studied in Pakistani IDPs case, I found lack of concern regarding IDPs dynamics and social and civil rights by governmental and non-governmental organization which seems making situation inside camps worsen. IDPs show much anxiety and dissatisfaction toward indifferent attitude of NGOs, UN partners and other governmental institutes. Women, children and old persons are the main characters who are being oppressed at the most in these camps. By talking in account the women cultural and social rights of northwest Pakistani areas, females' social sphere is always separated than that of males. Many of the women are not willing or allowed to interact with male member of their community who do not belong to their family. Moreover, women are not comfortable to stay in males' gathering. Keeping such attitude of women into mind, one can understand how uncomfortable it would be for women to stay in a place where their rights of security and privacy are being violated and they are being suppressed by unattractive relief projects of donors.

Option1: Restoring IDPs Dignity (with IDPs women example)

Insufficient understanding of the IDP dynamics is creating social mobilization and coordination problems in IDPs camps. It is sometime not so easy for IDPs women to socialize and interact with NGOs and other relief organization to report their problems where most of the working staff is male. Here we encounter with the question of dignity. We need to look deeper on the circumstance which these displaced women are facing inside camps. Their cultural codes do not let them go out and stand in line along with males for hour to get their food to eat or to wait out with males outside the toilets. They do not have same freedom and privacy they had at their homes. Usually northern Pakistan families live in compound houses where they have maximum privacy and free spaces for women. They always cook inside their homes and never go out to buy food. The main

concept is that they are not learnt to interact or deal with men. In most of the case they do not want to mingle with stranger men or women. They also have equal dignity and rights as other citizens. They have right to adequate food and drinking water, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, adequate housing, privacy, education, freedom of thought, conscience, and religion and freedom of opinion. Most of these points are being covered by UDHR article 25. To retain these NGOs and other aid partners should refrain from actions which obstruct or impede the realization of those rights. Many plans by NGOs and different relief partners are made without considering social and cultural norms of IDPs. There is a sense among many IDPs that NGOs do not respect their culture norms. By the coming examples, one may understand why it is so important to respect the cultural and social values of these IDPs women, and how one can violate the Human rights of IDPs women:

Example no.1 Toilets/ washrooms: IDPs were used to living in ‘self-sufficient’ family compounds. Toilets/washrooms are not sufficient in IDPs camps and sometimes they are outside the camps areas. Toilets and washrooms for men and women were constructed adjacent to each other which are not user-friendly or culturally acceptable by IDPs. There is a need of privacy/partition wall to solve such problems. Foreign partners & NGOs which are funding these projects should understand that women privacy and security issues, women are not willing to or allow to contact with men outside the home and while partition between men and women toilets can provide some sort of privacy and protection to these women. In many cases, these toilets are also located outside these camps areas and considered culturally out of bounds for women. Restrictions on using toilets/washrooms have created health issues, anxiety and insecurity concerns. There is a serious need of proper planning to separate men and women toilets/washroom and to increase the number of Toilets at camps; the numbers of washrooms are very less and women could not take bathe for long. There is also a need for specific women’s toilets & washrooms which are not seem at many sites.

Example no.2 Kitchen sets & food: Kitchen kits are needed at camps for the women to cook inside camps; most of the women do not have courage to stand in queue along with men to get food. There are many orphan and widows staying at camps as well; widows and orphans do not will to leave the privacy of their tents which would risk exposure to

strangers, men as well as women. They sometime do not have male family member to receive their food and other non-food items. Women are being deprived to have their essential right to get food for themselves. Arrangement of kitchen sets inside camps would surely be help full for women to make their own food; they prefer to cook by their own instead of eating unhealthy readymade unbalance foods.

Example no.3 Healthcare: The most sensitive problems which women are facing in these IDPs camps related to health issues. Many thousands women staying in these camps are pregnant, many of whom expecting babies. Women have difficulties to see a male doctor to consult pregnancy issues; most of the medical staffs working at IDPs camps are male. 1st of all they are not courageous enough to see a male doctor, if they do, they have a hard time to reach doctor, perhaps they have to stand in queue for hours to consult a doctor. Camps lack the equipped labour/operation room and skilled staff. In most of the cases women have taken to different hospitals or relatives home away from the camps for delivery cases. If there are any labour rooms we may not find any lady health visitor, skilled birth attendant, and lady helpers for delivery cases. These women who are at IDPs camps were not used to go to hospitals for deliveries rather give birth at their homes with the help of skilled birth attendants. Taking this seriously, governmental and non-governmental organization should work together to increase number of lady health workers in the camps and make plan to open up new well equipped labour rooms where women staff would be responsible for pregnancy and delivery issues.

In this context, one may understand the seriousness of the violation to women dignity by marginalizing them. Human rights of those women are being violated by a structural repression inside camps which is being created by the NGOs and other government partners working through different projects for IDPs. Such projects are putting IDPs women into the situation of discomfort and insecurity, which is unquestionably risking IDPs women health and privacy. Pregnant women are also having health problems because of not seeing doctor properly this is not only putting those women into dangers but also risking the life of their coming babies as well. Efforts should be made to provide women cooking kits inside their camps so they can make their own food and should not be deprived of getting proper food. NGOs and other partners should understand the

dynamics of those women and make relief projects accordingly. IDPs women right should have given full right to live with dignity and independence. By securing their social, civil and cultural rights, we can make their lives more comfortable and secure inside these IDPs camps.

Option 2: Resettlement & Rehabilitation

There are no plans for IDPs return to their homes. Camps situations are so hard and these people are deprived with many social and economical rights; lack of health facilities, food shortage and indignity of the camps is intolerable. Such circumstances are forcing these IDPs to go back to their homes as soon as possible. Many IDPs blamed government for lack of facilities; they think that government supposed to do more if they are going for such operations. Many IDPs chose to stay with their friends and relatives, to be saved from such disgraced of camps. In the word of one IDP he want to get red from the “suffer the indignity of a camp”, further saying: “We live in terrible conditions - nine or ten to a single room; many of the children now go to work rather than school to try and make ends meet.”¹⁰ They feel like they are in prisons and only way to get out of these prisons is to go back to their homes. Izzat khan “I’d be the happiest person if I could just go back,” he said (IRIN News)⁵⁵. The best solution to these human rights issues for me is to take IDPs out from such these camps which encompass with indignity and insufficiency of basic facilities. Government should make it possible for all these IDPs to return safe at their home. That is indeed human right of all IDPs to have access to an adequate housing, food, privacy and healthcare and this goal could be achieve by making a peaceful return of IDPs. In fact, this is so easy to say to send all IDPs back to their homes, this must need much prior preparations. Those IDPs who have taken refugee in camps have no other options to stay; most of the IDPs do not have any friends or relatives who can take them to their homes. They are in the hand of government and foreign aid until they go back to their homes. When we have a closer look in IDPs camps, we see a situation of discomfort and indignity inside camps. IDPs do not seem accepting the camps environment as it is not compatible with their social and cultural system in many ways. Further, they do not

⁵⁵ <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84443>

have access to basic necessities of life in side camps. Keeping all these facts into mind once can fairly understand the importance to make return plan for these IDPs. Perhaps, it is their home only that can give them a sense of comfort and privacy. However, when we talk about the resettlement plan, there are many factors which need our attention; it is depending on issues like when IDPs return to their home, will they remain secure at their homes, shall they get schools for their kids, health service, shelter, work, a safe environment of course and basic necessities to start a new life, etc.? Government along with NGOs must make some special preparations for rehabilitation prior to IDPs return. I am not sure at what extent such preparations are taking place for these returnees. I assume much of the infrastructure of these regions would be destroyed because of conflicts, and much rehabilitation would be required.

In most of the cases, I found IDPs unfortunate to receive the basic human rights. They are not getting their equal citizen rights being citizen of a state. IDPs rights are being violated in many IDPs camps; they are facing food shortages, disease, impure drinking water, psychological problem, violence and abuses etc. These issues with no doubt are human rights abuses and stress upon the equal human dignity and rights of all IDPs to live a good life.

Abbreviations

IPD(s)	Internally Displace Person(s)
HR	Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
OCHA	Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
HRDS	Human resources development society
PPA	The Pakistan Paediatrics Association
HRW	Human Right Watch
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
AUC	The African Union Commission
iDMC	International Displacement Monitoring Centre

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<http://www.internal-displacement.org/>

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Human Rights Watch - <http://www.hrw.org/>

IRIN: A Service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs-

Humanitarian News and Analysis - <http://www.irinnews.org/>

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Reuters News - <http://www.reuters.com/>

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Buner) - <http://pakistanidps.files.wordpress.com/>

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