

HIGHLIGHTS

- Vulnerable families in Balochistan, KP and FATA face a bitter winter and urgently need winterized non-food items and support to rebuild damaged or destroyed houses.
- An assessment mission to Kurram Agency is slated for 21 to 24 January to determine whether the conditions for return are appropriate.
- Local authorities are stepping up efforts to combat polio. Latest data indicate polio cases increased by 57 per cent last year, from 58 cases in 2012 to 91 in 2013.

FIGURES

Estimated IDPs in KP and FATA (UNHCR)	1 million
Returns to FATA in 2013 (FDMA)	108,000
Estimated returnees to FATA since 2009 (FDMA)	1.4 million
Registered Afghan refugees (UNHCR)	1.6 million
Affected by floods in 2013 (NDMA)	1.5 million
Affected by earthquakes in Sept. 2013 (PDMA)	185,000
Food insecure (National Nutrition Survey)	58%

2014 FUNDING

344m (US\$)

Required to address overall humanitarian needs in 2014.

2013 FUNDING

Complex Emergency in KP and FATA

210m* of 330m (US\$)

Contributed for projects in the 2013 Humanitarian Operational Plan for KP/FATA

*Includes a Government of Pakistan \$53 million in-kind donation of 150,000 metric tons of wheat.



OCHA/Humaira Mehboob

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Vulnerable families bear the brunt of winter

An estimated 390,000 people urgently require winterized items

Pakistan is experiencing its coldest time of the year, leaving displaced people and returnees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and earthquake-affected people in Balochistan desperately in need of winterized items and other necessities.



Displaced children at Jalozaï IDP camp fetch firewood, which families at the camp are using to keep warm during winter.

Photo: PDMA/Rania Shah

Humanitarian partners are distributing non-food item (NFI) winterized packages to internally displaced people (IDPs) in camps in KP and FATA. Resources are needed to urgently distribute these packages to an estimated 240,000 IDPs living outside camps, especially in Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan and Hangu districts in KP.

The packages comprise blankets, shawls, kitchen sets, plastic mats, solar lamps and jerry cans,

In addition, about 30,000 people who reportedly spontaneously returned to the Tirah Valley in FATA in late 2013 also urgently need winter items.

Earthquake-affected families need urgent support, but access concerns remain

In Balochistan's earthquake-affected areas, low temperatures have reportedly forced many families to migrate from rural to urban areas. Tents distributed by local authorities and partners to people in need in these areas following the September 2013 earthquakes are not winterized and do not provide adequate protection against the cold.

An estimated 120,000 people in Balochistan urgently need winterized NFIs kits and support to rebuild their damaged or destroyed homes. Concerns remain over limited humanitarian access in the affected areas due to insecurity.

Partners seek \$16.2 million to provide winter assistance

Overall, humanitarian partners require an estimated US\$16.2 million to provide winterized NFIs kits and support the rebuilding of damaged or destroyed houses in Balochistan, KP and FATA. The current harsh winter weather against the backdrop of limited assistance raises the risk of respiratory illnesses in these areas.

WHO has pre-positioned emergency health kits for 100,000 people for three months in areas that are prone to snowstorms, avalanches and landslides, supplementing the medical stocks of local authorities.



Kurram Agency returns assessment planned

The FATA Secretariat has de-notified 50 villages in the Alisherzai area in Kurram Agency, from which 4,400 families fled in 2011 due to sectarian violence. About 1,500 families have reportedly returned home, and those still displaced could begin returning during the second week of February.

An inter-agency assessment and humanitarian response mission is slated for 21 to 24 January to determine whether the conditions for return are appropriate, and the support that would be required by IDPs seeking to return. Humanitarian partners have requested for a returns plan from the Government to ensure the returns are safe, voluntary and informed.

Authorities step up efforts to curb polio

KP government plans three-month anti-polio campaign

Latest data indicate polio cases in Pakistan increased by 57 per cent last year, from 58 cases in 2012 to 91 in 2013. More than 80 per cent of the cases were from KP and FATA.



A Lady Health Worker goes door to door to vaccinate children against polio in Peshawar.
Photo: UNICEF/Asad Zaidi

With more than 90 per cent of current polio cases in the country genetically linked to Peshawar, the KP capital is now the largest reservoir of the endemic poliovirus in the world, according to WHO.

To overcome the security and programmatic challenges affecting polio eradication in Pakistan, the KP government plans to launch an intensive three-month immunization campaign in February to vaccinate 700,000 children in Peshawar District.

The campaign in Peshawar seeks to interrupt the transmission of the polio virus in one of its key reservoirs in Pakistan within the first part of the "low season" for transmission – the winter season – covering January to April.

Low winter temperatures mean that the virus is less active and is not transmitted easily. This is the time when the vaccine is most effective in stopping virus circulation. WHO and UNICEF are providing technical assistance to provincial governments in their polio eradication efforts.

Punjab authorities use technology to bolster vaccination efforts

Recognizing the need for innovative approaches, the Punjab Health Department has introduced a computer-based system to register newborns. The system will send automatic-generated reminders to parents whenever routine vaccination of a child is due.

Under the new system, a Lady Health Worker will send a message to a mobile service provider after visiting a newborn. This will prompt the server to send information on vaccination and preventable diseases through text messages to the parents on a regular basis. The Government of Punjab will pay the charges for this service.

Polio remains endemic in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, according to WHO. Pakistan is the only polio-endemic country in the world that reported more cases of the crippling disease last year than in 2012.

For further information, please contact: ochapakistan@un.org

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