

Diagnostic Survey of the Camps of Internally Displaced People in NWFP

Azizullah Shah¹, Irfan Ali², Matiullah Khan³ and Dr. Shahid Ahmad⁴



May 25th 2009

¹ Deputy Director, Land Resources, Natural Resources Division, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad.

² Deputy Director, Water Resources, Natural Resources Division, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad.

³ Senior Scientific Officer, Water Resources Research Institute, National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad.

⁴ Member Incharge Natural Resources Division, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad

Diagnostic Survey of the Camps of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in NWFP

Azizullah Shah⁵, Irfan Ali⁶, Matiullah Khan⁷ and Dr. Shahid Ahmad⁸

1. Motivation

Dr. Zafar Altaf, Chairman, PARC, advised the Member, Natural Resources Division to launch a Rapid Mission to the IDPs (Internally Displaced People) camps in NWFP to conduct a diagnostic survey with an objective to assess and analyse the present situation of various IDPs and evaluate the possibility of managing wastes (wastewater and solid wastes) for raising vegetables, as construction of drainage system is difficult, time consuming and expansive. The monsoon season is approaching fast and the situation of disposal of rainwater and wastewater is going to be further aggravated. The district governments although are involved in the relief measures and for the development of infrastructure for the IDPs but the work is gigantic and requires support of knowledge based institutions like PARC. The involvement of IDPs in activities which can generate some income would also provide an opportunity for the IDPs to be involved in productive activities so that some of the issues related to trauma and social deprivation are addressed.

The Member Natural Resources Division constituted three members Rapid Mission for the conduct of the diagnostic survey in the IDPs camps. The Rapid Mission visited the IDPs camps located at Mardan, Takhat Bhai, Swabi, Nowshera and Peshawar during the period of 16-19 May 2009 for the assessment of problems faced by the IDPs and conduct need assessment in the camps. The basic purpose was to identify feasible short-term agricultural interventions for the IDPs camps.

2. Objectives of the Rapid Mission

The overall objective of the Rapid Mission was to conduct diagnostic surveys of 8 IDPs camps in NWFP and document problems of the selected IDPs especially related to water, food, health and hygiene and formulate feasible interventions. The specific objectives of the Rapid Mission were to:

- identify the issues of IDPs related to drinking water, sanitation, solid waste, wastewater and disposal of waste- and rain-water;
- diagnose the problems related to food, health and security; and
- identify prospects of short-term agricultural interventions in the IDPs camps.

3. Diagnostic Survey of the IDPs

Rapid Mission deployed for diagnostic survey of the IDPs visited 8 camps located in Mardan, Takhat Bhai, Sawabi, Nowshera and Peshawar. The purpose of the rapid survey was to have quick and fairly clean survey so that appropriate interventions can be initiated within shortest possible time. The basic information collected from 8 camps of the IDPs is presented in **Table 1**. Some of the camps were established during 2008 and they are almost 8-9 months old and these are the camps where most of the IDPs seem receptive to initiate agricultural interventions as they are now adjusted with the camp's environment.

⁵ Deputy Director, Land Resources, Natural Resources Division, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad.

⁶ Deputy Director, Water Resources, Natural Resources Division, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad.

⁷ Senior Scientific Officer, Water Resources Research Institute, National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad.

⁸ Member Incharge Natural Resources Division, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad.

Research Briefings

Volume (1), No (5), 2009

Table 1. Information collected from 8 IDPs Camps located in NWFP

Sr. No.	Name of Camp	Location/ District	Name of Administrator / Contact No.	Date of Commencement of Camp	Date of Visit	No. of Families Registered	No. Individuals	No. of Tents	Migrated From	Remarks
1.	Jalala	Takht Bhai, Mardan	Ali Hannan Qama 0334-4119821 0300-4132534	01-05-09	16-05-09	1265	10000	1600	Swat	Entry Point for IDPs Swat Poorly Managed
2.	Yar Hussain Mira	Chotta Lahore, Swabi	Kabir Khan 0345-5200365	01-05-09	16-05-09	732	4009	813	Swat & Bonair	VERY Well Managed
3.	Kacha Gari-I	Peshawar	Arbab Arshad	September, 2008	17-05-09	1519	8880	1480	Bajour, Mahmand & Malakan	Normal
4.	Kacha Gari-II	Peshawar	M. Ayub Khan 0333-9486300 ayubkhanrb@yahoo.com	-do-	17-05-09	957	5774	1064	Bajour, Mahmand & Swat	Normal
5.	Jalozai	Nowshera	Shahidullah Khattak 0300-5975687	-do-	18-05-09	12000	60000	10000	Swat, Bonair, Dir	Satisfactory
6.	Sheikh YasinTown	Mardan	Tasneem Khan 0300-5644558	10-05-09	18-05-09	1926	12,834	1467	Swat, Bonair, Dir	Satisfactory
7.	Sheikh Shehzad	Mardan	Malik Modissar Riaz	01-05-09	18-05-09	1354	8790	1087	Swat, Bonair, Dir	Satisfactory
8.	Shah Mansoor	Swabi	Col. M. Nisar 0321-5290725	12-05-09	19-05-09	1467	9094	2000	Swat, Matta, Bonair, Dir	Very Well Managed by Red Crescent
Total						21,220	119,381	19,511		

The Diagnostic Surveys – Focus Group Dialogues

The Rapid Mission conducted the Interactive Focus Group Dialogues at the 8 IDPs camps and documented the perceptions of the IDPs in these camps. In addition, meetings were conducted with the administration of the IDPs to have their perceptions regarding the problems of the IDPs (**Figures 1 and 2**).



Figure 1. Focus group dialogues with IDPs for the diagnostic surveys



Figure 2. Meeting with the IDPs Camp Administration about problems of IDPs

Registration of the IDPs and Allotment of Tents

The first most activity in the IDPs is the registration of the IDPs at the camp site where administration is registering the displaced people. The camp provided by the UNHCR is also presented in the picture presented below (**Figures 3 and 4**).



Figure 3. An inside view of a camp provided by UNHCR



Figure 4. Registration of IDPs from Sawat is in progress at Yar Hussain Mira Camp

Collection and Disposal of Solid Wastes

At some of the IDPs camps arrangement has been made for the collection of solid waste. Plastic bags are being provided by the institutions dealing with the relief measures. The people bring their solid

wastes at the disposal points and then TMAs collect the solid wastes for further disposal into the points. Most of the solid wastes are of organic nature therefore these can be used for the conversion into organic composts, which can be used for growing of vegetables and melons (**Figure 5**).



Figure 5. Solid waste collection point in IDPs camp at Yar Hussain Mira

Domestic Water Supply, Utilization and Disposal

The facility for provision of water has been developed using different concepts. People are provided water coolers or buckets and they collect water from the common collection points. The wastewater has created environmental problems and need to be addressed on urgent basis. At the relatively old camp, some of the families are using wastewater for the production of flowers. Thus, there is potential for raising vegetables and managing the wastewater through utilization (**Figures 6 to 9**).



Figure 6. Drinking water points without water taps in some of the camps



Figure 7. Kids getting water for drinking purposes from water points

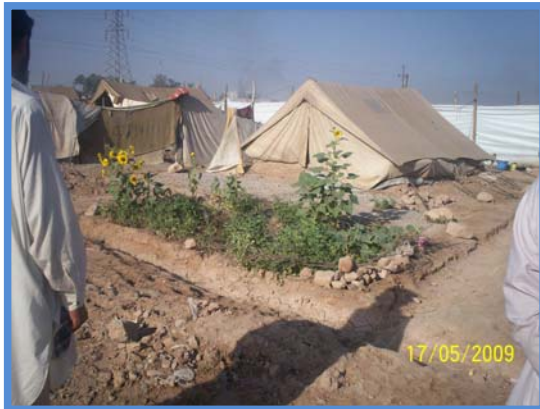


Figure 8. Kitchen garden maintained near a tent at Kach Ghari using wastewater



Figure 9. Waste and rain water collection ditches at Kacha Ghari Camp

In some of the camps, where the groundwater is shallow the contractors and administration of the camps have developed an appropriate technology for pumping of water needed for construction and domestic use. In this intervention, the donkey pump is modified to develop a manually operated efficient pump. This innovation can be further refined and taken up by the WRII-NARC for small scale drip irrigation systems for household levels where groundwater is shallow and vegetables and melons can be grown for kitchen and market purposes (**Figure 10**).



Figure 10. Hand driven donkey pump provided in Shah Mansoor Camp for Water Supply

The Red Cross organization has installed portable bladder type water tanks which are environment friendly and can be adjusted to any situation. In some of the camps tubewells have been drilled to provide water to the IDPs (**Figures 11 and 12**).



Figures 11 and 12. Portable Bladder Water Tank for Supply of Water for IDPs Shah Mansoor Camp

Community Kitchen

The community of IDPs have established Kitchen facility so that they can have quality food of their own taste and choice. This is a very positive and forward looking choice and will bring these communities out of the trauma they have currently facing because of away from homes and in a miserable conditions prevailing in the camp due to hot weather. Moreover provision of hot food is also safe and hygienic (**Figure 13**).



Figure 13. Community kitchen for IDPs of Swat, Dir and Bonair

Platform for Washing of Clothes and Current Practices

The washing platforms have been developed in the camps for washing clothes. These were constructed in the camps to provide appropriate facility for washing of clothes. In addition, the women have also started using the nearby water channels for washing of clothes because of assured and adequate water availability (**Figures 14 and 15**).



Figure 14. Women washing clothes on water channel passing nearby Yar Hussain Mira Camp



Figure 15. Washing place for women provided in the Shah Mansoor Camp

Toilets and Bath Rooms and Current Condition

Toilets have been constructed as dry toilets without flushing facility. People have to take water in a container for use. These toilets with passage of time will become either choked or very smelly. Intervention of adding EM in these toilets will initiate microbial fermentation and odour can be taken care. PARC is in a position to give demonstration for managing the sanitation. The people are also using washrooms as toilets in almost all the camps. This is a clear indicator of creating awareness for using and maintaining washrooms and toilets. It is also clearly evident that there is acute shortage of water in most of the camps (**Figures 16 and 17**).



Figure 16. Dry toilets are now started giving problems



Figure 17. Wash rooms are being used as toilets in almost all camps

Schools and Education

The camp administration has established schools with the help of donor agencies and NGOs in almost all the camps. The students are more than willing to join the school and response is reasonable. The education system and facilities have to be improved and programmes for skill enhancement can be developed for the IDPs (**Figures 18 to 20**).



Figure 18. Community school at Sheikh Shehzad Camp



Figure 19. Children studying in a class



Figure 20. School established by UNICEF at Yar Hssain Mira Camp

Distribution of Relief Goods

Some of the views of the relief activities being carried out in various camps are being depicted in the following photographs (Figures 21 to 24).



Figure 21. IDPs of Shah Mansoor camp struggling for ice



Figure 22. Unmanaged Distribution of cooked food by Red Crescent at Shah



Figure 23. Cooking oil being provided to the IDPs by WFP



Figure 24. A non-food items supply point by UNHCR at Yar Hussain Mira Camp

Construction in the Camps

The construction in the camps is an indication that the problem of displaced people is not of short-term nature rather it will take time. Therefore, agricultural and landscape interventions are needed for the IDPs camps to bring the displaced people out of the trauma they are in (Figures 25 and 26).



Figure 25. Electrification at Jalozai camp



Figure 26. Established IDPs are now moving from tents to permanent

4. Other Findings of Diagnostic Survey

- Most of the IDPs are residing in villages and cities of NWFP on rental or cooperation basis of local community as the number of IDPs living in 8 camps is around 120,000.
- On an average 100 affected families are coming in each camp on daily basis
- Most of the camps are located on private lands hired by the government of NWFP
- Sufficient food items in cooked form or raw food items (wheat, rice, pulses, cooking oil, biscuits, dry milk) are being supplied to individual families by various national and international donor agencies, NGOs and local community of the area
- Health facilities are being provided by UN agencies, NGOs and government health departments (MCH, Male & Female OPDs and emergency admission)
- Various international agencies like UNHCR, UNICEF, PRCF, Ummah Foundation UK, CERD, WATSON and WFP are actively involved in the supply of food, tents, health facilities, sanitation and drinking water
- Different government departments and local NGOs like Al-Khidmat Foundation, Star Education System, Edhi, Rehman Foundation are providing different facilities at IDPs camps
- A new site at Kacha Garhi-III (Peshawar) is in progress for new IDPs of Swat, Matta and Bonair.

5. Problems in the Camps

- Overall sanitation condition is miserable in almost all the camps due to shortage of sanitation staff and water.
- In Kacha Gari (Peshawar), Jalala (Takhat Bhai) and Shekh Yasin (Mardan) camps insufficient number of water tanks are provided and poor arrangement of drinking water was

observed. Only twice a day tankers are providing water which is not sufficient for the residents.

- Lack of drainage system in most of the camps which will create problems of malaria with the on-set of monsoon.
- Due to high temperatures (40-45 °C), congestion and lack of electricity supply to the tents in almost all the camps except Shah Mansoor in Swabi is creating bleak situation especially for the people migrated from cold areas.
- Displaced persons are provided hand fans which are not useful under the blazing sun.
- Most of the agencies are providing food stuff excluding sufficient milk for children and tea.
- Due to Trauma, lactating mothers are unable to feed the infants with their milk therefore; they are bound to feed the infants using dry milk which is causing diarrhea.
- Currently cooked food is being provided to IDPs on temporary basis but they need some fuel/energy for cooking their casual food like tea and raw food stuff provided by the UN agencies.
- Residents of the tents are compelled to sleep on thin plastic sheets due to non-provision of any soft sleeping material and pillows
- All the IDPs are in a dire need of clothes as they came in a single wearing suit especially children and women.
- In Shah Mansoor Camp toilets for women are provided at distant places (at two ends of the camp) this situation is causing social problems for women as they have to pass through all tents to use toilets.
- Due to congestion and heat in the camps cases of scabies, dehydration, heat stroke, jaundice and diarrhea in children are observed in some camps.
- Cash is not available with the IDPs to meet their daily emergent needs. This situation is causing frustration in the minds of the IDPs.
- Low quality wheat flour is being provided by WFP (Kacha Ghari, Shah Mansoor UNHCR camp), the affectees are of the view that the bread of this wheat flour is of poor quality and they are unable to eat it. The reason is that wheat being provided is not of bread quality.

6. Way Forward

1. Cost-effective and appropriate drainage system has to be designed at the camp level to dispose the waste- and rain-water to some collection points where it can be stored for raising vegetables. The storage tank can be lined with PE plastic film of 250-500 micron thickness to avoid the seepage. The vegetables like creepers (bitter gourds, cucumber, squashes, melons, etc.) can be grown using simple driplines or on the shoulders of the beds, as they require less water. PARC in collaboration with camp administration may initiate such an activity starting from the camps which are relatively old (i.e. 8-9 months).
2. PARC may provide support for training and provision of materials (tools, driplines, seeds, etc.) for initiating models for vegetables production for kitchen purposes at various water storage points constructed in the camp. A decentralized system of collection of wastewater will be developed so that cost-effective disposal can be constructed at the camp level. The beginning may be made from Kacha Gari Camp, Peshawar to establish kitchen gardening as an income generation and environment friendly activity. In addition, solid wastes can be converted into composts using EM technology. Thus the two activities will help dispose-off the organic solid waste and wastewater in an effective manner.
3. The model can be replicated in all other camps after developing it in the Kacha Gari Camp, Peshawar, which is the oldest camp and residents are having the feeling that they have to do something for earning their livelihoods. The residents of the newly established camps can be taken to the Kacha Gari Camp to demonstrate to them the benefits of the kitchen gardening and handling of wastes.

4. Tree plantation of fast growing species may be arranged to provide shade and improve the environment.
5. There is also a scope of household poultry rearing to meet the family needs/nutrition of individuals especially children and women. Besides, this creative activity will also engage the individuals in getting rid from trauma. They can also sell the eggs and chickens in the market.
6. PARC may help in capacity building of IDPs in providing trainings in the field of food preservation technologies, growing of vegetables crops, small-scale enterprises (i.e. Phulkare, etc.).
7. PARC may help in harnessing solar energy for designing of solar ovens for cooking purpose, solar water distillation units, etc.
8. One day salary of all PARC employees may be donated for IDPs. The money collected may be used for introduction of interventions. Based on the pilot interventions a project may be developed under RADP for scaling up the interventions. Project will take time therefore the money available from the donations may be used effectively and quickly.
9. Incharge Jalala Camp, Ali Hannan Qamar requested that some companies offered supply of cloth for clothing but tailors are not available with them for stitching. If tailors are arranged the tailor made clothing can be provided to the IDPs in the camp.
10. Mosquito repellent bushes like Niazbo may help to reduce malaria cases in the camps.
11. Administrator of the Seikh Shehzad camp (Malik Mudassir) expressed his desire if PARC can plan for at least one garden in his camp to provide IDPs a recreational activity.
12. Skill development for honey bee keeping will also be very helpful for these displaced persons for income generation. These activities may be started by providing PARC desk with displayed banner at various camps.