



**FOOD INITIATIVE FOR IDPS IN  
BANNU, PAKISTAN  
First 10-day Report**

**BACKGROUND:** Waziristan, a mountainous region of northeast Pakistan is one of the thirteen semi-autonomous Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) governed by Pakistan's Federal Government through a special set of laws. It is divided into North and South Waziristan. Geographically, Waziristan's southern border lies with District Bannu, Tank, Lakki Marwat and Dera Ismail Khan in KPK while its northern border is the porous line of boundary with Afghanistan. For the past decade or so, Waziristan has been in the global focus for Taliban militant activities and targeted drone attacks. South Waziristan was rid of Taliban by a military operation in 2009 leading to North Waziristan becoming the cloistered seat of the Taliban. See more here: <http://newsweekpakistan.com/north-waziristan-before-and-after-the-taliban/>

After months of unsuccessful peace talks, the Pakistan Army launched an offensive in North Waziristan titled Zarb-e-Azb on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 that has led to the displacement of 92,702 families (over 800,000 persons) in just one month. According to the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA), nearly 74% of these IDPs are women and children and the majority of these families are residing in Bannu district with some moving to Dera Ismail Khan and Tank and Kohat Districts.

According to OCHA, most the IDPs are living with friends and families, many having opened their 'hujra' doors to these families. This also means that the cost of renting homes has shot up further adding to the woes of the IDPs. The government established a refugee camp in Bannu that has attracted only 28 families due to its inadequate facilities and security. Our own needs assessment as well the 1<sup>st</sup> July PHC (Pakistan Health Cluster) meeting identified food crisis as the most critical issue since the displacement took place with the advent of Ramadhan and its inherent price hikes. Although the Pakistan Army, armed with food rations supplied by the UAE government have begun to distribute food on ground, the FDMA has requested humanitarian organizations for assistance in support in provision of food packages, non-emergency health kits and non-food items.

Available at

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North\\_Waziristan#mediaviewer/File:Pakistan\\_NWFP\\_FATA\\_NORTH\\_WAZIRISTAN.svg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Waziristan#mediaviewer/File:Pakistan_NWFP_FATA_NORTH_WAZIRISTAN.svg)

## **INTERVENTION:**

**Phase 1:** Our needs assessment team determined that although food rations were welcome, many IDPs had no cooking utensils and heating/cooking arrangements as most had to flee for their lives without their possessions. In the month of Ramadan, their immediate need was cooked food for the two times of eating, i.e. Sehri and Iftari. With generous zakat donations by Muslim brethren in Pakistan and the UK, RMF launched the "RMF Iftar Dastarkhawan" on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2014. A local philanthropist, Mr Ismail Khan generously opened his residence (called Hujra in local language) as the premises of this food initiative.

In the first six days from 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July 2014, we provided chicken rice pilau, dates and juice to a total of 690 IDPs (@ approximately 115 persons per day). During this week, we learned that most of the IDPs coming were men and children, mostly boys, as the cultural norm dictated that women and girl children

were to stay out of the public space. This meant that most women and children were not being accessed or receiving any food. Again, as per this very strict and patriarchal culture, the practice that men and boys eat first and leftovers are for the women and girls was exhibited by the fact that after the dastarkhawan the attendees would come over and ask for packets to take home to their families, something that was beyond our budget.

Therefore we decided not to serve the food on site and instead distribute food in packages to families sufficient for an average of 5-6 persons. Hence from 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July 2014, we distributed the same food menu in packages to an average of 25 families per day totaling approximately 480 persons.

The total number of people served with cooked food under our Food Initiative for IDPs in Bannu has been 1,170 over a period of 10 days. We hope to continue this till the end of Ramadan that is expected to be 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

### **Phase 2 (follow-up intervention):**

The issue of providing food after the month of Ramadan is being proposed by giving selected families uncooked monthly food packages composed of 20kg rice, 20kg flour, 5kg pulses, 3 liter oil, tea, sugar, dry milk, salt and spices. This food package will cost about 5,000 rupees and will suffice for one family of 5 members (adults and teenagers) or 8 members (2 adults and 6 children under 14).

We are aiming to providing food packages to a 100 families for a period of 2 months. The protocol of distribution will be close coordination with the FATA-DMA to ensure that duplication is avoided. This includes a specific form that identified the collector's CNIC, IDP registration number, family tree registration, the number of members in his/her family and if they have already received any rations from other sources