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Pakistan: South Waziristan Displacement Climbing

Since mid-October, more than 12,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from South Waziristan Agency (SWA) have formally registered in Bannu District, NWFP. An unknown number of IDPs have also fled to North Waziristan Agency.

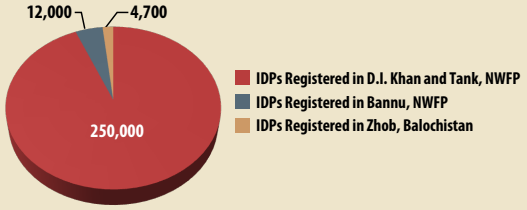
Most IDPs from SWA are arriving in Tank and Dera Ismail (D.I.) Khan, where the NWFP Social Welfare Department operates six registration facilities (1 in Tank, 5 in D.I. Khan). Since mid-October, nearly 170,000 IDPs have been formally registered.

Under Government of Pakistan (GOP) policy, only members of the Mehsud tribe who reside in "conflict areas" are eligible for official registration. It is unknown how many IDPs from other tribes have also fled heavy fighting in SWA.

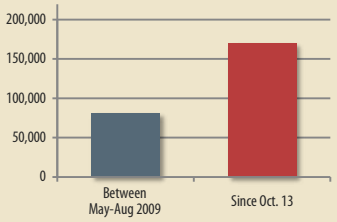
More than half the entire population of SWA is displaced. No formal IDP camps have been established in NWFP; most IDPs are finding shelter with relatives and friends. Official registration may result in a cash handout from the GOP and/or receipt of food and non-food supplies from aid groups.

Though no international humanitarian agencies have direct access to SWA or adjacent areas in NWFP, the UN has established a logistics hub in Bhakkar, Punjab Province, in order to stockpile relief supplies. Local implementing partners further transport the supplies to distribution hubs in Tank and D.I. Khan.

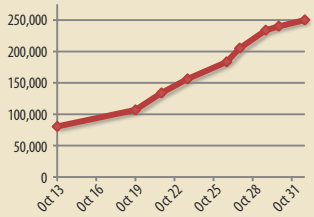
Total Number of Registered IDPs from South Waziristan



Approximate Number of Registered IDPs in D.I. Khan and Tank Districts



Registered IDP Caseload Doubles in Tank & D.I. Khan in Three Weeks



Sources: USG, UN OCHA, UNCHR, IRIN, Pakistani Media, International Crisis Group

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