



RETURN POLICY FRAMEWORK
for
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas

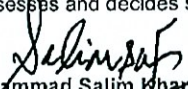


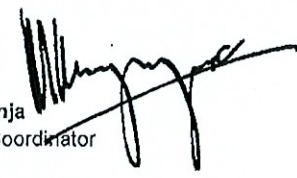
UNITED NATIONS

The FATA Secretariat of Pakistan will undertake the implementation of voluntary, safe and dignified return of IDPs from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan. The return will be guided by the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that enshrines the right to freedom of movement. It will also be in conformity with the internationally recognized Guiding Principles.

The following complementary principles will guide the return:

1. FATA Secretariat at all levels assumes that assistance and the protection of the IDPs from FATA to be its first and foremost responsibility and is committed to act within the framework of the international principles and standards applicable.
2. Voluntariness in decision-making implies that a decision to return, relocate or integrate locally is self-determined from a number of viable options. That return will be on voluntary basis and requires that IDPs make an informed choice, without coercion, and that the will to return is clearly expressed.
3. The end of displacement is the full restoration and enjoyment of a person's human rights, in a non-discriminatory manner, and is a process through which the need for specialised assistance and protection diminishes over time.
4. The return will be undertaken in safety and dignity. The FATA Secretariat will ensure that protection from violence, threats, intimidation or risks to physical integrity prevails in the areas of return, integration or relocation within FATA. This condition applies to transit areas or routes that IDPs will use.
5. While the return of people to their areas of origin or habitual residence will remain the preferred most solution, the option of relocation elsewhere within Pakistan will be available to them as well as IDPs wishing to remain in camps will be allowed till conditions for their safe return are met.
6. FATA Secretariat commits to provide respectful treatment to the returning IDPs, involving them through a consultative process in all stages of their return, taking into account the different views of girls, boys, women, men, older persons and diverse population groups.
7. In accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182, FATA secretariat commits to provide all possible assistance including liaison with concern security agencies for access to humanitarian actors to all affected population in implementing humanitarian assistance program, such as food, health care, water, sanitation and shelter.
8. FATA secretariat commits to ensure timely issuance of no objection certificates to humanitarian actors as per agreed procedures which is essential to impartially assess humanitarian needs, establish operations, move goods and personal where they are needed, implement distribution or provide services, and monitor the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian activities.
9. With the guidance of the Humanitarian Coordinator and the facilitation of OCHA, the humanitarian community takes up the responsibility to support FATA Secretariat in this endeavor by providing the necessary capacity that it will need in order to fulfill its obligations.
10. Sustained engagement and continued support of the international community will be needed to meet the protection, assistance and rehabilitation needs of the IDPs in areas of return and displacement, if the government of Pakistan assesses and decides so.


Muhammad Salim Khan
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FATA Secretariat
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Date: 23/6/10


Martin Mogwanja
Humanitarian Coordinator
Pakistan

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