

Monitoring Visit of Swat IDPs Living in Abbottabad

By

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A monitoring visit of Bunair IDPs temporarily living in Abbottabad was conducted by PC documentation Tania Saleem from M&E section and Dr Atique from Health section. The purpose of the visit was to monitor transparency in the process of providing relief to IDP families who have been displaced from places of their origin. Circumstances have forced them to leave every thing behind in their villages and live in combined rented places with host families or in IDP camps. Among 40 assessed families, 35 IDP families were declared eligible for cash for choice assistance by Sungi DMP team and were given tokens. Among these 14 IDP families were randomly selected for verification of data provided by the IDPs. Monitoring was especially done with almost all the family members present so that the assessment done earlier could be verified.

During monitoring visit following things were verified:

- Whether the people who are given the tokens are really IDPs
- Number of family members
- The condition in which they were living
- Matching of Assessment forms (whether beneficiaries also had the copy of the token)
- Those who were given the token were really most vulnerable

At the time of monitoring almost all the family members (including women) of the family being verified were present. It was found that these IDPs belong to different classes i.e. rich and poor but circumstances have made the former rich families as needy as the poor ones. Both are in dire need of immediate assistance and relief as they were forced to leave their belongings in their villages as the army operation against Taliban started in Swat and Bunair. In all the houses more than six families were living with inadequate household items and personal belongings. Besides financial hardships these IDPs are also facing cultural alienation due to their circumstances. Although in Mardan and other places host families are trying to take every possible care of IDPs but IDPs living in Abbottabad are on their own, and have no real support from neighbors or government. Six to eight families belonging to the same clan also shared that as they actively resisted and fought the Taliban they do not have any hope of going back as they are at high risk and besides their houses and properties were completely destroyed, first by the Taliban and then to the Army operation. These IDPs are facing immense economic hardships while making sacrifices to bring peace to the region. They deserve immediate intervention from Sungi and other organizations on priority bases.