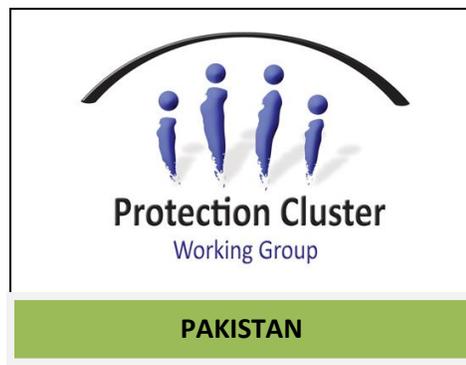


Protection Cluster Return Intention Survey - Overview of Results

Benazir Camp, District Nowshera, 22 March 2012



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Report issued 3 April 2012

Recommendations

1. IDPs who want to return to their areas of origin be assisted in doing so including with transportation for their families and belongings
2. IDPs who qualify for housing compensation be provided with the compensation swiftly so they may be assisted to return
3. IDPs who are prohibited from returning to their homes (Kotki villages) be assisted in recovering their homes or accessing an alternative durable solution
4. IDPs who are prohibited from rebuilding their homes (Loesum corridor villages) be assisted in accessing an alternative durable solution
5. All IDPs be informed and reassured that they have a right to choose an alternative durable solution (reintegration or resettlement) should they not want to return
6. IDPs who may be at risk on return or who currently cannot for any other reason be provided with continued humanitarian assistance in Jalozai camp or in off-camp locations
7. IDPs who may be at risk on return or who currently cannot for any other reason should be supported to access registration and have their registration unblocked if required
8. Special assistance be provided to vulnerable families, such as those with children with disabilities, to support them return or shift displacement locations

Background and profile of IDPs in Benazir Camp

On 22 March 2012, the Protection Cluster mobilized the Rapid Protection Assessment Roster to undertake a return intention survey (RIS) with the residents of Benazir camp in Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The camp is scheduled to close on 6 April 2012. PDMA has offered Benazir residents the option of re-locating to Jalozai camp, also in Nowshera. The purpose of the RIS was to understand IDPs intention to return and any barriers to return or to accessing alternative durable solutions. The RIS was

also undertaken to determine if any particular concerns existed for IDPs in need of continued assistance in displacement in re-locating to Jalozai.

IDPs from all 83 households who were present in the camp on 22 March were interviewed using a return intention survey form uploaded onto a personal digital assistant (PDA). All IDPs were from Bajaur Agency and the overwhelming majority had displaced more than two years ago and had lived in the camp for more than two years.

The IDPs were from the following villages:

Alhundai – 1	Gute kheil – 1	Nawagai – 10
Charmang – 7	Halki Charmang – 3	Shareef Khana – 2
Charmang Kotkay – 4	Hilal Kel – 10	Sheikh Kalli – 2
Charmang Nava – 1	Khaar – 1	Tangai – 7
Garro – 4	Khazana mor - 3	Tarkho - 1
Girdishai nawa – 1	Kotki – 21	
Guldairai – 2	Loesum – 2	

The 83 IDPs who were interviewed reported some 614 family members with 28% under the age of 5. Only 5% were over 60 but more than 75 individuals were recorded as living with disabilities. 22% of the IDPs surveyed were women. Of these, 30% were not heads of households, which provides a diversified response. 9 elderly IDPs were included among the respondents (10%). Furthermore, while 9% of the respondents identified themselves as community leaders, the majority did not, ensuring the survey represents the views of IDPs beyond the traditional leadership.

The majority of the respondents are registered as IDPs, though 13 per cent said they are not. Interestingly, unregistered IDPs were disproportionately female.

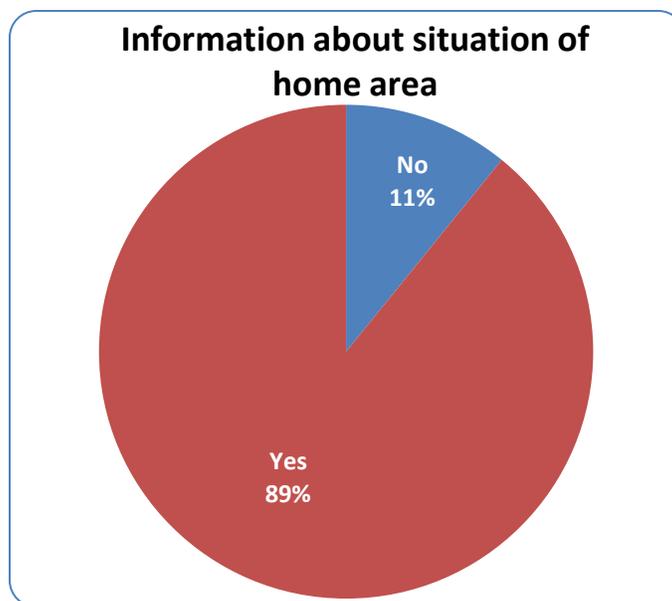
Are you registered as IDP			
Row Labels	Total	No (#)	No (%)
Female	19	4	21%
Male	64	7	11%
Total	83	11	13%

Almost 20% of registered IDPs reported that they cannot access humanitarian assistance (referring to food assistance as that is the main form of assistance provided to IDPs on a monthly basis) as their registration has been blocked.¹

Informed and voluntary nature of decision making process

Almost 90% of the respondents said that they have information on the areas of origin.

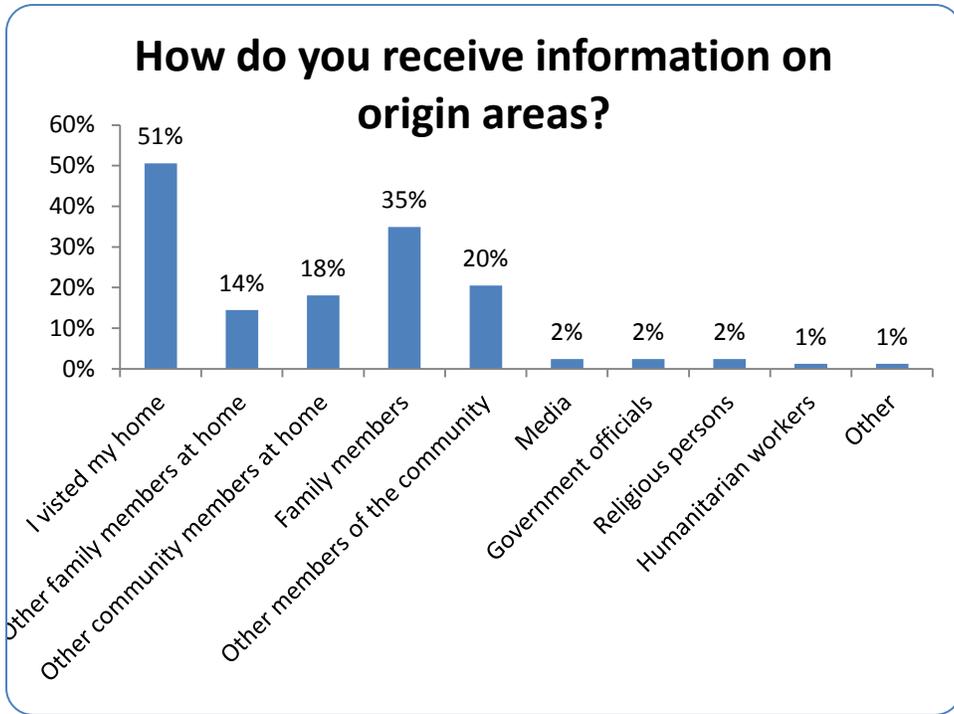
¹ Registration is blocked for IDPs who are not “verified” by NADRA. The protection cluster has a list of IDPs blocked from humanitarian assistance and will aim to follow-up on this concern to support WFP identify any genuine cases in need of continued assistance. IDPs who are not registered, have had their assistance blocked, or have other individual concerns were advised to approach the UNHCR/IRC grievance desk in Jalozai camp.



When they were asked if they had enough information on a range of issues, respondents were most likely to know about the situation of their home. 55 per cent said they had adequate information on the safety situation in their home area. Less was known about the status of livelihoods, as well as about services available.

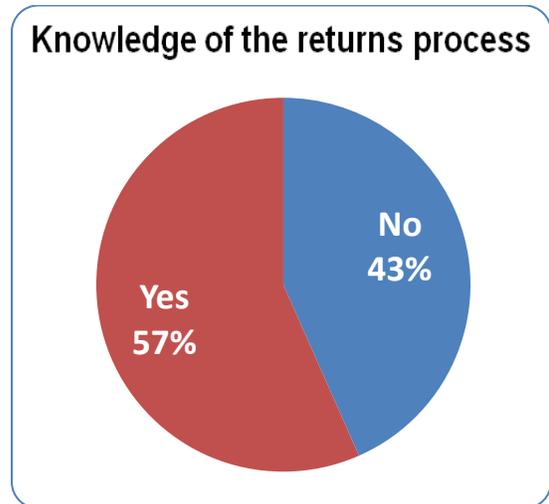
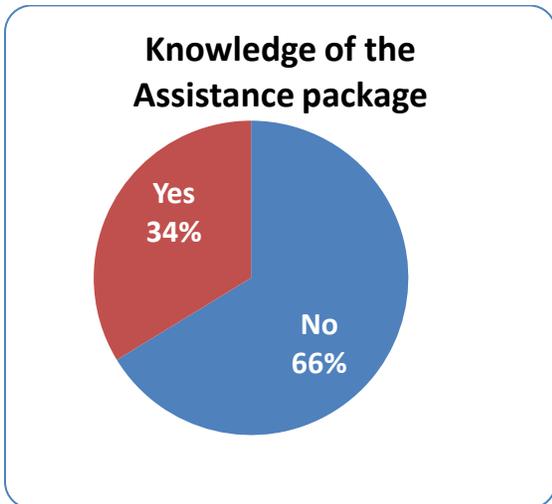
Do you have information about the situation in your home area?		
Options	# that said yes	% that said yes
Safety in your home area	46	55%
Situation of your home	60	72%
Status of crop/business	28	34%
Water health and education facilities	31	37%
Don't know	12	14%
Grand Total	83	100%

Almost 50 per cent of respondents had visited their homes. Most of the IDPs reported receiving information on the situation of their homes areas from either family/community members. Very few respondents pointed to government, media or humanitarians as the key provider of such information.



Less than 50 per cent believed that “go and see visits” would be useful; most likely because they had either themselves visited or had relatives who had already visited.

However, in contrast to the wide knowledge about the situation of their areas of origin, less Benazir camp residents reported having knowledge of any returns process (43 per cent) and even fewer had information on any assistance to support their return and transition.



Furthermore, while returns decisions may have been in large part informed (at least in terms of crucial information related to area of origin information), only 25 per cent of respondents reported that they participate in the decision

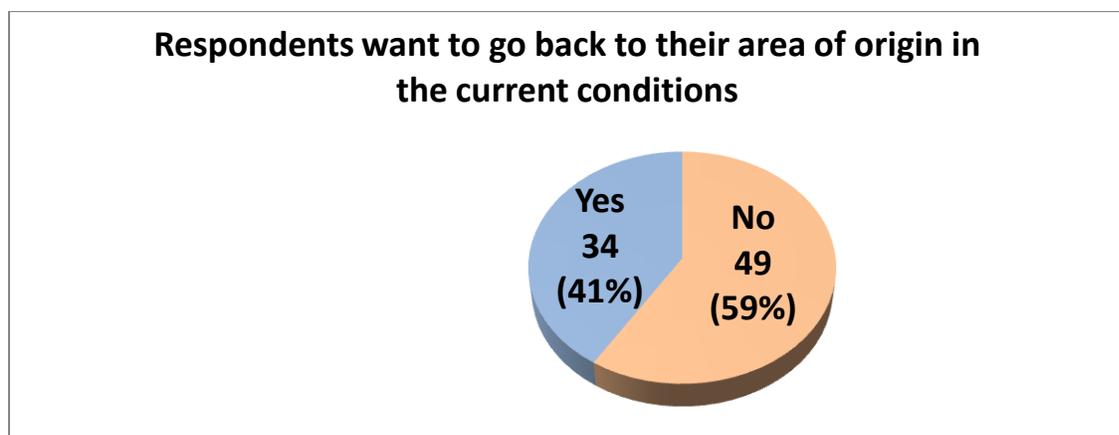
to return. This is particularly low when it is considered that most of the respondents were male adults. When asked who was primarily responsible for making the decision, most IDPs pointed to political authorities, camp management or community elders. Almost half of the Benazir camp residents said they felt under pressure to return.

Do you participate in decision making process?		
Options	#	%
No	58	70%
Yes	25	30%
Grand Total	83	100%

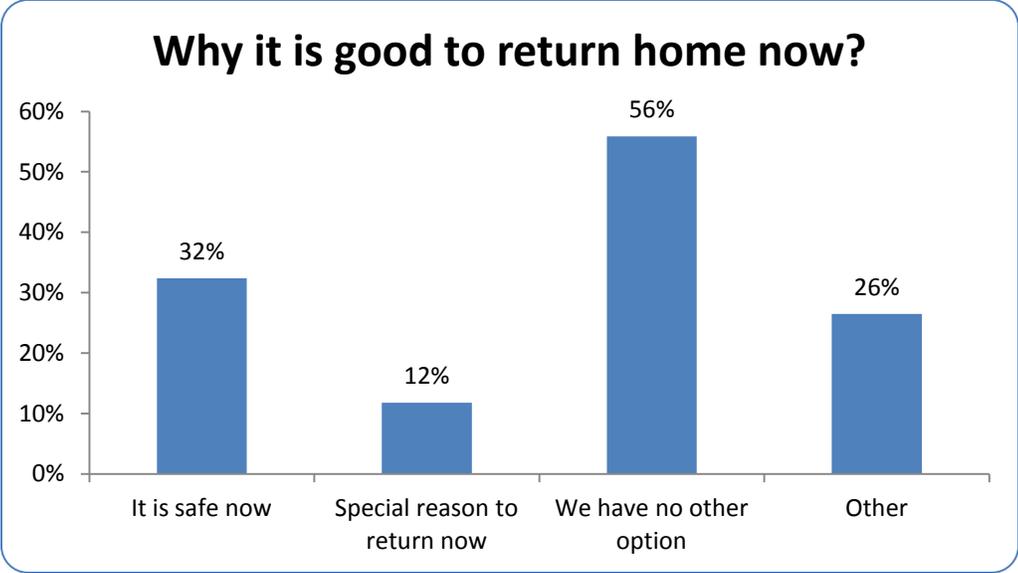
Are you under pressure to return?		
Options	#	%
No	41	49%
Yes	42	51%
Grand Total	83	100%

Intent of IDPs to return to their area of origin

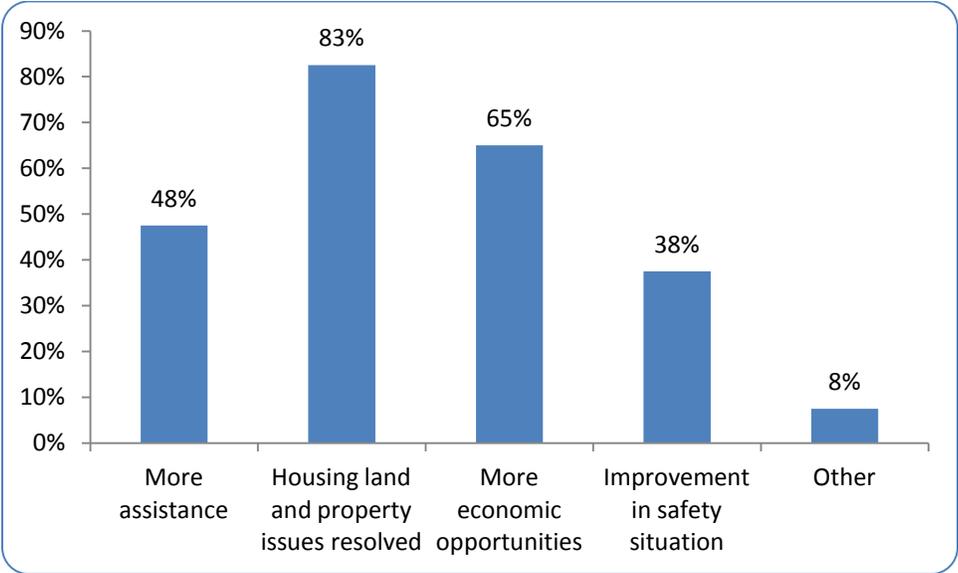
Almost 60 per cent of the IDPs (49) interviewed did not want to return to their area of origin in the current conditions. 34 respondents indicated that they did want to return, though many of them stated that they needed assistance to do so.



The 39 IDPs who indicated that they wanted to go home were asked about their reasons for wanting to return now. While many indicated their genuine interest in wanting to return home (because their area is safe or because there is a special reason why now is the right time to go back – e.g. to cultivate, rebuild or send children to school), some 56 per cent indicated that they wanted to go back because they had no other option.



The 49 IDPs who said they did not want to return in the current circumstances did however overwhelmingly (82 per cent) report that they wanted to go back *one day*. The following answers were given to a question on what would need to change.

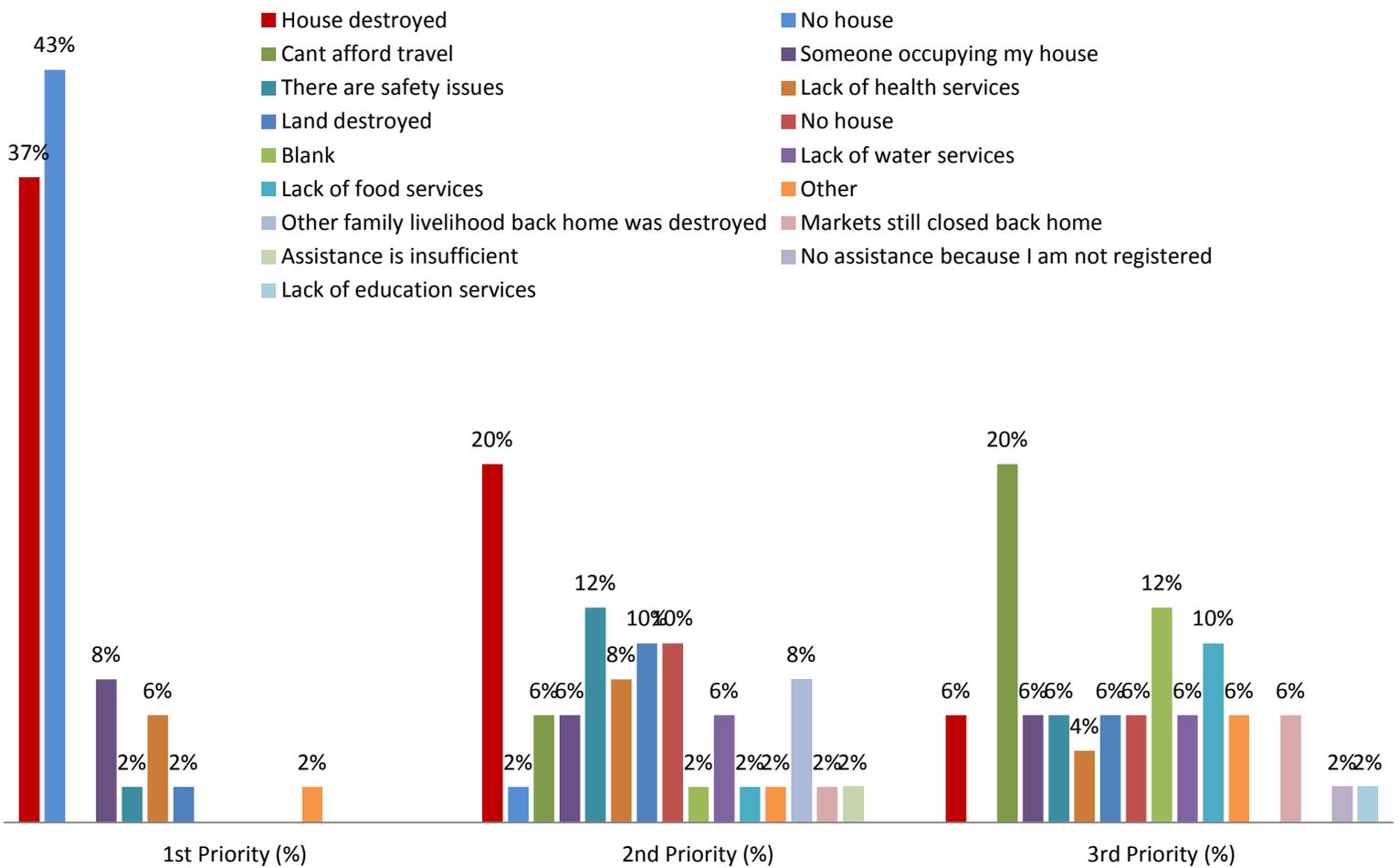


Barriers/additional assistance needs to return in dignity

IDPs who said they did not want to return to their area of origin in the current conditions were asked about the barriers to return. Only few respondents highlighted safety reasons as one of the top three barriers to returning (addressed separately below). However, a large number of respondents highlighted other barriers to returning, suggesting that additional assistance is required to enable them to return in safety and dignity. The

main concerns relate to the destruction of their homes and barriers to rebuilding. Insufficient resources to travel were a third most common barrier highlighted by IDPs among the top reasons why they could not return.

Priorities of obstacles to return



Summary of the top 3 First obstacles to Return (Out of all 3 the top most responds for each)		
1st Top Obstacle	No house	21
2nd Top Obstacle	House destroyed	10
3rd Top Obstacle	Not enough financial resources to travel	10

IDPs with damaged or destroyed houses highlighted the following obstacles to re-building their homes:

Excluded from housing compensation	2
No housing compensation (promised but still waiting)	4
Need assistance to rebuild	17
Not permitted to reconstruct	14
Not right time to rebuild	7
Other	2
Grand Total	46

The high numbers of IDPs stating that they are not permitted to reconstruct relates largely to members of the Kotki villages who were living on the land of landowners (Khans) who are not permitting them to return to rebuild. Respondents also include members of the Loesum corridor villages who are not being permitted by the military to rebuild their homes along a strategic road. Governmental authorities have been seeking a durable solution for IDPs in these communities.

One IDP who reported “other” stated that he had not been able to provide an NGO with the required funds to access support to rebuild home.

When asked what would make their return feasible at least one day, most of the needs relates to assistance (26%), housing (43%) and economic opportunities (33%). Security is behind (18%), consistent with other responses provided regarding returns in current conditions.

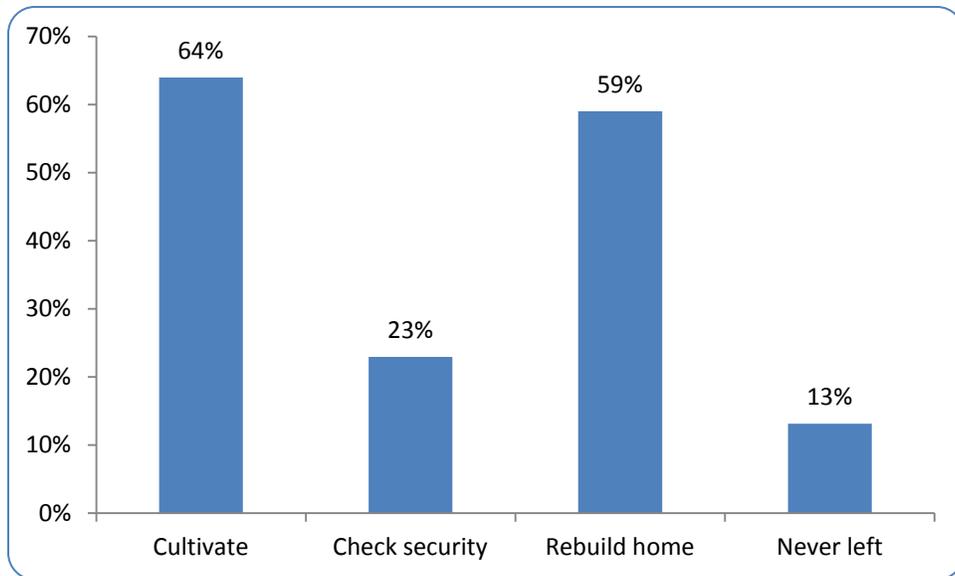
IDPs in need of special assistance to return in safety and dignity

Several IDP families interviewed highlighted particular needs to being able to return in safety and dignity. In particular, one family interviewed included three blind children; they reported that their house was destroyed and they had no means to re-build. Worryingly, they also stated that individuals claiming to be officials from Benazir Income Support Programme had interviewed them in regards to qualifying for BISP assistance, had charged them a fee for consideration, but had never returned. As stated above, respondents identified 75 residents among the Benazir population as living with disabilities. Special assistance may be needed to assist such families to enable them to return to their origin area. Special assistance may also be required to support them shift to Jalozei camp.

Safety issues that prevent some IDPs returning

Of the 49 IDPs who stated that they did not want to return to their area of origin in the current conditions, ten stated safety concerns as one of the top three reasons. One respondent put safety as the first reason why s/he did not want to return, six as the second reason, and three as the third reason. When asked their top three security concerns related to returning, most of these ten stated that there was ongoing conflict in their area or nearby area; four also referred to an individual threat and one to harassment from armed groups.

When IDPs were asked about whether they knew community members who had remained in their areas of origin or had returned in the last 6 months, 73% (61 respondents) answered positively; most had returned to rebuild or cultivate.



Of these, some 18 per cent (15 respondents) reported that these stayees/returnees had faced security threats in the last 6 months. The stated security issues varied and many did not appear to constitute severe threats (e.g. stated reasons was curfew, CNIC checks etc). In three cases however, it was reported that these stayees/returnees faced individual threats.

Intent and ability of IDPs to access alternative durable solutions in safety and dignity

9 IDPs stated that they never wanted to return to their area of origin. The main assistance required to be able to resettle was livelihood opportunities.

Shifting to Jalozai camp

The 49 IDPs who said that they did not want to return in the current conditions were asked if they would be willing to shift their displacement location to Jalozai. Only some 22 per cent of these IDPs (12 respondents) expressed such a willingness. When asked why they were unwilling to shift to Jalozai, IDPs gave a range of answers expressed in the table below:



While almost one third (16 respondents) referred to safety concerns with shifting to Jalozai, on closer inspection only 6 respondents had concerns which appear to constitute actual security concerns (“conflict with others at Jalozai”) while the answer responses were vague, pointing to a discomfort with living with strangers (6 cases) or a general unhappiness with having to uproot.

Number of Respondents willing to move to Jalozai camp in the meantime	
No	37
Yes	12
Grand Total	49

Number of Respondents safety concerns at Jalozai	
Conflict with other at Jalozai	6
Concern about being with strangers	6
Other	4
Grand Total	16