

Evaluating Rehabilitation Process in FATA: Challenges and Prospects

Umbreen Javaid*

Abstract

After 9/11, terrorism became a source of major concern in the world politics. Following the attacks on World Trade Centre, US pressurized Pakistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Pakistan, since then, has continued to be a frontline state in the global war against terror and simultaneously fought a war at domestic front, reiterating its resolve that it will continue till the end of last terrorist. Over the years, Pakistan has been facing with the influx of terrorist outfits in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The jagged and rough territory of FATA is considered as the most inflamed area for terrorist activities by non-state violent actors. The persistent panic; adverse socio-economic, political and security conditions led the Pakistan's army to start offensive strikes in FATA in order to eliminate perpetuating neo-existential terrorist threats. Resultantly, an exodus of internally displaced people from North Waziristan Agency faced undue consequences of dislocation from their home station. The civilian leadership of Pakistan has been facing daunting challenges of repatriation and rehabilitation process in FATA. The objective of this paper is to look at the varied aspects regarding the rehabilitation process in FATA, its challenges and prospects.

Keywords

Internal security, terrorist outfits, negotiations, internal displacement, repatriation, rehabilitation process.

Introduction

Rehabilitation has long lacked a unifying conceptual framework. but in essence, almost all the varying definitions and approaches embody the notion of 'inclusion'. Traditionally the word rehabilitation is used exclusively in the context of facilitating programs aimed at serving the needs of physically / mentally disabled persons. In fact, U. N. has a full fledged document titled 'Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)' to deal with the habilitation and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities (Article 26, CRPD). Although the term is exclusively used in the context of individuals with physical disabilities but the operational framework of the process of integrating an individual with physical disabilities is very much helpful in dealing with the problem of re-integrating victims belonging to a conflict zone. The individual rehabilitation cycle begins with identification of a person's problem and needs,

*Author is Chairperson, Department of Political Science and Director, Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Punjab, Lahore - Pakistan.

relating the problems to relevant factors of the person and environment, defining rehabilitation goals, planning and implementing the measures and assessing the effects. The case of reintegrating groups in communities in post conflict zone has, as a matter of fact no handy road map. But the problems such societies face can be distinctively categorized in two broad challenges i.e. the challenge of economic recovery and the risk of recurrence of the conflict. Both these aspects are crucial and inter-linked (Collier, Hoeffler & Soderbom, 2008). Apart from two broader categories, the war torn conflict regions are susceptible to many other problems and challenges ranging from disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, resettlement and reintegration of victims displaced to the reform of governance structure which in majority of scenarios has to be built from debris of long period of civil war and intense violent conflicts.

Rehabilitation through Aid

The process of rehabilitation with the aforementioned dual challenge of economic recovery and prevention of relapse into the conflict has, as a worldwide practice, embraced two strategies, the one dealing with uplifting the economic conditions and the other being focused on strengthening the democracy and democratic processes. Strategy of the economic uplift can be traced in the post-world war II scenario when the U. S. secretary of state John Marshall proposed a financial backup plan for the war torn countries of Western Europe famously known as the Marshall Plan. The success of that plan is attributed to many other factors besides financial aid alone like competitive civil services and prevalence of effective banking systems in the target countries in 1940s and 1950s. The success of this plan left deep impressions on the minds engaged in the dealing with the rehabilitation of post-conflict societies. "The Marshall Plan still dominates the contemporary thinking on rehabilitation (Zeeuw, 2001, p. 7). The economic growth framework concept sees economic growth as an integral part of the reconciliation and rehabilitation program. The concept considers economic assistance as a significant contributor towards settlement of issues in the conflict zones. "The basic rationale for focusing activities on economic growth is the positive correlation between low growth and an increased risk of a conflict recurrence found in the empirical literature" (Maier, 2010). But the problem with this widely embraced approach is that in the post-conflict situations the target communities / states / regions have limited or no capacity to handle enormous amounts of monetary aid. Such approaches, in the words of Gilles Carbonnier "tend to take for granted the basic underpinnings of the economy with a well-established legal system to enforce property and contracts and well defined social norms. But these have often being shattered by civil war, if indeed they ever existed." (Carbonnier, 1998). Thus, injecting

Evaluating Rehabilitation Process in FATA

massive financial or monetary aid alone is though the frequently adopted method worldwide but it is not considered to be very effective.

Rehabilitation through Democratization

The other approach focusing on institutional building and strengthening democratic processes is based upon the conviction that the best mechanism to deal with post-conflict societies is democratic governance. According to this approach, “democracy is a system for managing differences without recourse to violence. Differences (of opinion, belief, ideology, culture, etc.) are natural part of every society. And conflict arises from such differences. Rather than eradicating or removing differences, or excluding some groups who differ within society, democracy functions as a process through which differences are brought out, acknowledged and dealt with in a way that permits them to exist without threatening the whole system. It is in other words, a system for managing conflicts.” (Bloomfield, Barnes, & Huyse, 2003).

This approach considers eruption of conflict situation as a failure of governance system and emphasizes on strengthening the democratization process which refers to “the process through which countries developed institutions, behavior patterns and a political culture that contain the exercise of power within the limits established by representative institutions and the rule of law (Krishna, 1998).

Regardless of the strategies opted; the process of rehabilitation embodies notions of ‘new hope’, new beginning and new life. A distinction in this regard can be drawn between the term ‘relief’ and ‘rehabilitation’ as the later differs from the former in that problems of immediate survival have become overlain with problems of adjustment to circumstances of relative peace. Thus definition of rehabilitation from a transformative stand point condenses as, “*a process of social, political and economic adjustment to, and underpinning of, conditions of relative peace in which the participants, especially those who have been disempowered and immiserated by violence, can begin to prioritise future goals beyond immediate survival. Survivors not only need a stake in achieving these adjustment goals but need ultimate direction over the means to achieve them*”(Pugh, 1998).

The process of rehabilitation is thus complex; particular policies have to be fashioned in the light of *sui generis* circumstances.

Rehabilitation Process in Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan

Pakistan has remained entangled in a situation of perpetual of crises since her inception. Initially the influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees became a problem of great importance so much so that Quaid-e-Azam M.A Jinnah constituted a separate ministry to deal with the situation headed by him. Later on consecutive wars of 1948, 1965, 1971 and 1999 took a heavy toll on the country's human and material resources. Natural calamities like floods and earth quakes have also been playing their role in creating hurdles in the country's journey towards progress but the deadliest problem facing the nation and threatening the survival of the state itself in the contemporary scenario emanates from its decision of taking part in the global politics during the cold war. Pakistan decided to become a launching pad for the guerilla fighters trained and supported by the U.S.A to fight against the Soviets in neighboring Afghanistan using slogans of jihad.

When Mujahideen or guerilla fighters fought American war against Soviet forces in Afghanistan, the Western media labeled them as gallant 'freedom fighters' but soon after they turned into 'terrorists' when they started resisting against U.S catered interests. Since September 11, 2001 attacks, all trails led to Osama bin Laden and ultimately to distant Afghanistan which had remained a safe haven for militant outfits since the rise of Taliban. Terrorism emerged when the state of Pakistan, led by President Musharraf was forced to make an alliance with US and her allies in the global war against terror. Pakistan became the key stone in the international fight against terrorism. Its comprehensive logistic support to US and allied forces in Global War on Terror damaged her internal security structure and critically undermined country's repute in the accord of nations. Pakistan due to her geographical proximity to Afghanistan had to pay a heavy price, a country upon which the charge of atrocious offence of September 11 was being laid by UNSC. The borders between Pakistan and Afghanistan were regarded as the safe havens of global terrorism. President Obama also described Pak-Afghan frontier as politically unstable, a safe haven for Pakistani and Afghan Taliban. As the US-led alliance hit terrorist factions operating in Afghanistan, these factions, including al-Qaida and the Taliban displaced to FATA. In this remote region of Pakistan, al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations designed, geared up and executed numerous terrorist attacks in Pakistan particularly and around the world generally. The terrorist outfits had been victorious in generating an ambiance of fear that had serious implications for Pakistan's security.

Pakistan has been a prey of militancy for quite some time. The outlay suffered by Pakistan in the war on terror has been approximately US\$ 35 billion. A

Evaluating Rehabilitation Process in FATA

continuous increase in number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan has been observed in the recent years. The Taliban had widened their operations beyond Pakistan's tribal areas and targeted a number of government installations and organizations in the mainland. Due to targeted nature of militant activities from FATA across large parts of Pakistan, military operations in tribal regions are necessitated.

The continued cycle of violence perpetuated by militants has led to the intensification of Operation 'Zarb-e-Azb' by Pakistan's military. National and International agencies marked dozens of militants safe havens namely: Gul Bahadur group, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Haqqani Network, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) and Islamic Jihad Group (IJG) etc. These terrorist factions hosting in North Waziristan Agency had multiplied the security hazards throughout the country which has already been under apprehensive condition (Assessment Report of IDP's, June 24, 2014). The long-lasting offensive labeled 'Zarb-e-Azb' aimed to eradicate the umbrella of all terrorist outfits from FATA region. It was launched when negotiations were derailed between apex leadership of Pakistan and TTP leadership, which proved to have little space for settlement.

Operation Zarb-e-Azb, a 22nd declared military offensive against the extremists in FATA initiated after the circuitous bilateral talks between terrorist outfits and the political leadership of Pakistan proved infertile (Elahi, June 27, 2015). The government and all the opposition parties unanimously gave go ahead to fight off the insurgency threat and terrorism once for all for Pakistan's national interest. Therefore, the attacks on strategic assets of Pakistan led the military to launch a decisive operation named Operation 'Zarb-e-Azb' on 15th June 2014, involving up to 30,000 soldiers (ACAPS Briefing Note, June 27, 2014). The military operation is based on four phases: strangulation, clearance, rebuilding, and handing over control to civil administration (Ijaz, December 8, 2015).

Operation Zarb-e-Azb is a comprehensive operation aimed at flushing out all foreign and local militants hiding in North Waziristan Agency (NWA). While working on dynamic grounds relating to FATA, a vivid increase in the clashes between the militant groups and security forces was noticed. Continued airstrikes, bombings and firing adversely affected the lives of people and they had to flee to other areas. The tribal people displaced to IDP camps and host communities due to the levitating militancy.

The daunting challenges confronting the national leadership of Pakistan after Zarb-e-Aab include:

- to develop a national counter-narrative ideology against militancy;

Umbreen Javaid

- to mainstream FATA through a steady process of sociopolitical reforms;
- to design and ease the IDP's safe repatriation and rehabilitation process (Iqbal, August 10, 2014);
- to set up administrative system to take control of daily affairs in FATA (Pildat, 2014 August 04);
- to create a roadmap for medium to long-term socioeconomic development; and,
- to establish constitutional, legal, structural and institutional reforms (FATA Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation Strategy, March 2015).

Beyond Zarb-e-Azb: IDPs Issues and Challenges

The Security related developments forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee from their homes and move towards Bannu, Laki Marwat and contiguous areas in KPK; Bakkar and Fatehjang in Punjab; and other parts of the country and to Afghanistan's Khost and Paktika provinces (OCHA, 24 Jun 2014). UNHCR assistance for IDPs includes: 1) "registration, verification and documentation processes; 2) establishment of Grievance Desks for IDPs; and, 3) and identification of vulnerable persons with specific needs for individualized attention" (GPP – IDPs Support and Rehabilitation Fund n.d.).

It is marked to be the second largest internal displacement during the recent years after Swat in Pakistan. In the wake of military operation in the northwestern tribal area of North Waziristan Agency (NWA), FATA province, huge influx of people fleeing from the NWA has resulted in serious humanitarian crisis. In present scenario, IDPs of Zarb-e-Azb are facing many issues such as inhospitable climate, shelter problem, inadequate health facilities, food shortage, vulnerabilities to diseases and numerous hardships due to security restrictions, lack of transport and inflated fares.

Pakistan is determined to tackle extensive internal displacement at both policy level and implementation level, but remains ill-prepared concerning ratification of any particular legislation or strategies regarding IDPs. The outlay of rehabilitation of IDPs, above all renovation of destroyed health infra-structure shall need the assistance of international community, when the conflict is over (Khan & Ahmed April-June 2014: p.43). Considerable aid has been the priority of NWA IDPs (Government cash grants, food package, WFP monthly food ration, NFIs, etc.). IDPs undergo numerous plights; medicinal plus social.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

As of June 2014, the government of Pakistan established IDP camp in Bannu only for 27 families. Humanitarian partners are trying to provide the IDPs the facilities as per standards. Providing technical assistance, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and site maintenance etc. are the responsibilities of local and international organizations. WFP is providing food, NRC is distributing NFIs and the Government is providing cash grants to the IDPs. In Bannu and in Kurram agency, schools are being used as shelters (North Waziristan Displacements Situation Report No. 2, 25 June 2014: OCHA).

Shelter

Only a small number of the estimated 500,000 displaced population is expected to seek shelter assistance in camps. The rest will be assisted in host communities. IDPs living in host communities have to share rooms with more than 40 individuals in one room. Due to insufficient shelters, these vulnerable groups are lacking of winterized accommodation that contributed to further human suffering. The in-camp IDPs are being assisted through the CCCM mechanisms. In Bannu NRC has distributed NFIs to 1,853 families (North Waziristan Displacements Situation Report No. 2, June 25, 2014: OCHA).

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Problems (WASH)

Inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the collective centres of IDPs, posing a risk of diseases keep on posing challenges to the establishment because most of the families share limited resources. Among females and minors, skin diseases, diarrhea and other serious health issues are reported (NWA Displacements Situation Report No. 8, July 24, 2014: OCHA). The poor hygiene condition and the outbreak of any WASH related disease in the displaced population cannot be discarded off.

UNICEF is establishing WASH response in Bannu through their implementing partners' formal and informal camps. In schools in Bannu, 19 hygiene kits (one for each family) have been distributed by SABAWON. A joint plan for water quality testing in Bannu is developed by WHO, Public Health and Engineering Departments. Assurance to retort 10,000 families residing in hosting areas has been showed by OXFAM (NWA Displacements Situation Report No. 8, July 24, 2014, OCHA).

Health

WHO supported the government in vaccination of almost 251,434 IDPs with polio drops. USAID deployed a mobile health unit in Bannu. Laboratory apparatus, medicines, doctors and other medical facilities have also been provided(Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment Bannu Report, July 2014).

Protection

In the large IDP population, nearly 74 per cent comprised of women and children and they are highly in need of protection especially the female headed families. The disabled and the elderly persons in displacement and returnee areas are also in need of specialized protection(OCHA 20/02/2014).Efforts need to be made to ensure security concerns of dislocated persons of NWA such as burglary, damage and physical attack etc. Their rights should be respected and they have access to all services offered by the government to all its citizens. IOM's Humanitarian Communications Program launched an information campaign for the freshly displaced persons. The protection cluster also recognizes the vulnerabilities and identifies a number of priority areas requiring urgent intervention (Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment Bannu Report, July 2014).

Food

A large number of displaced families are still devoid of ration provided by the government. Thousands of IDPs daily reach to Sports Complex in Bannu to get provisions but they remain empty handed as they do not have ration cards that could entitle them the daily supplies.WFP assisted the management and provided food rations to IDP families and expected further displacements. The current load of more than 36,800 families and 4,587 tons of food rations per month is to some extent covered by WFP. Some distribution points have been established and some are in progress(The News, June 30, 2014).

Education

Education Cluster aimed at setting up schools in existing and new camp sites for some 82,000 children that was 40 per cent of entire displaced children. UNICEF procured educational supplies; 65 school tents, 185 recreational kits, school-in-box kits and some 1,925 plastic mats (North Waziristan Displacements Situation Report No. 2, 25 June 2014: OCHA).

Evaluating Rehabilitation Process in FATA

Management of IDPs

Pakistan Army Chief, General Raheel Sharif stated that “It’s a matter of great privilege and honor to be commanding such an accomplished and battle hardened Army, We will not stop unless we achieve our end objective of a terror free Pakistan”. Pakistan army took initiative to curtail extremism and terrorism. General Raheel Sharif assured that “the army would play its role in rebuilding and restoring normalcy in North Waziristan” (Dawn July 8, 2014). In the aftermath of present operation the whole lot of IDPs appeared to question government’s credibility as the government is responsible for the protection and rehabilitation of IDPs. It was stated that, “the government as well as the parliament will meet out requirements of military operation. All resources will be used to facilitate the peace-loving men, women and children who will be displaced due to the operation till they settle again” (Dawn June 18, 2014).

As the curfew eased down in North Waziristan from June 19, 2014 IDPs fled from NWA towards Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa. Thousands of families fled to Afghanistan. To cater the influx of IDPs, registration points and camps were settled at different stops and ration packs were also issued (Dawn, June 19, 2014). On 21st June 2014, the Civil Secretariat of FATA said to issue ration cards of 7,000 per months to NADRA verified IDP families.

Pakistan Army distributed the relief supplies and food packages and established many donation points within the country. In February 2014, the Pakistani Finance Minister Ishaq Dar told a visiting US Senator Jack Reed that “the cost of the operation so far had reached 40 billion (US \$ 390 million) and could go as high as 130 billion (US\$ 1.3 billion). United States allocated \$ 31 million for IDPs and an additional \$ 9.3 million for health, hygiene, water and sanitation for IDPs and livestock. It was also reported that the UAE government allocated \$ 20.5 million in IDP humanitarian aid” (Rana, February 19, 2015).

Zarb-e-Azb and Rehabilitation of TDPs

It was marked one of the largest human displacements in Pakistan. It forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee, vacate their places and move to other areas. Troubled North Waziristan Agency of FATA resulted in a temporary replacement and relocation of local people from the area of operation to safer locations. According to UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Internally Displaced Persons are defined as: "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence,

Umbreen Javaid

violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border" (OCHA, April 2001).

The displaced families urgently required relief. As of 15 July, the total registered displaced population from North Waziristan was 992,649 individuals (90, 756 families): 256, 272 males; 284,191 females; and 452,186 children. From July 22, 2014, FDMA registered some 92,702 IDP families and above 80% of IDP Population is temporarily residing in Bannu (source: FDMA). The government of Pakistan took lead on registration. As of 26th July 2014, after verification by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) to remove replication, the government of Pakistan reported just 52,000 displaced families that would receive family cash grants, an amount of PKR 22,000 every month (UNHCR, July 2014). About 74% of the displaced people are women and children (The Express Tribune, July 14, 2014). The very large family size is reported that may be owing to tribal, cultural and religious affinities that are subject to authentication. The civilian leadership's plan for repatriation and rehabilitation has not been fully carried out. Consistent to the earlier instructions, the government gave the responsibility to Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) to make necessary and rapid arrangements for repatriation and rehabilitation arrangements of presently displaced persons. With the onset of the military offensive, the relief camps were immediately established. The main IDPs camp has been established in BakaKhel and in district Bannu of KPK. These IDPs (now called TDPs) were faced with continuous agonies and were at mercy of vagaries of intense temperature and uncongenial circumstances. Social fiber of NWA and FATA is severely shattered. The efforts should have been done to retort the IDPs to normalcy (IDPs Disaster & Food Security Supplement, July 2014).

Return and Early Recovery

The needs and requirements of the IDPs along with the upcoming winter maximized the human sufferings. The immediate action is needed. The challenges for early return, recovery and rehabilitation are of long-drawn-out nature including the massive annihilation of abodes and infrastructure in FATA. The needs of IDPs should be anticipated by government, local and international humanitarian organizations in order to lessen human afflictions. Six months after Army's offensive strikes in NWA, an apex civil-military huddle talked about various options to resettle the mass exodus in NWA (Manan, December 10, 2014). While addressing the IDPs, the PM Sharif stated, "We are working day and night to ease your difficulties. The Government will spend maximum funds of IDPs, even if the amount is in billions or trillions" (Daily Times, June 27, 2014). He also appreciated the Army for their sacrifices and commitment to the cause of the nation and said, "The Army is giving their lives

Evaluating Rehabilitation Process in FATA

and salaries for the IDPs, and they deserve praise from the whole nation” (Iqbal, August 10, 2014). The meeting was convened to formulate a comprehensive strategy to reconstruction and rehabilitation of mass exodus. PM, who chaired the meeting, said that present operation had “inflicted a fatal blow on terrorists and peace has been restored as a result of this operation and it’ll contribute towards ensuring peace in the entire region” (Manan, December 10, 2014). Prime Minister assured the reconstructing of better areas for the displaced tribesmen when they return. Pakistan army chalked out a complete plan that clearly stated the roles FATA Secretariat, national and provincial governments that included “a phased rehabilitation of IDPs, local and foreign funding, mobilization of resources, construction of hospitals, housing colonies and roads, etc.” (Manan, December 10, 2014).

On December 8 2014, the armed forces permitted the gradual phased return of IDPs and declared early return of IDPs as their top priority. The army chief of Pakistani said the early return of the IDPs was his top priority. It is also directed to the civilian authorities to plan the return of IDPs in areas that are clear of terrorists. “General Raheel directed security forces operating in the area to create conditions conducive for early return of the IDPs” (Yousaf, December 8, 2014). On 31st March 2015, the return of the IDPs started. On the first day, 219 persons belonging to 62 families left Bannu and returned to their homes in Spinwarm, Shahmeri, Mirali and Bahubali in NWA. Each family was given 25,000 rupees as financial assistance and 10,000 rupees for transportation expenses. Six months food ration and non-food items (NFI kits) for each family would be provided. Anti-polio and anti-measles vaccines would be given to children for effective disease control (Salam & Bittani, April 01, 2015). As of May 4, 2015, a total of only 230 dislocated families were repatriated since the return plan began and the civil leadership could return the entire displaced populace back to their abodes within a month if the region was de-notified as war zone. According to official sources, the cut-off date for the return of IDPs would be December 2016 (Dawn, May 4, 2015).

Post Zarb-e-Azb: Rehabilitation Challenges and Prospects

In the context of security, challenges of external interference of India and Afghanistan are present. Time and again, the reports about the involvement of RAW in terrorist activities in Balochistan and Karachi have been found. Indian consulates in Afghanistan employ proxy elements against Pakistan. The training of Afghan National Army (ANA) by the Indian security forces in the name of reconstruction and rehabilitation in Afghanistan is beyond its legitimate interests that constitute a big security challenge for Pakistan.

Umbreen Javaid

With the launch of Zarb-e-Azb, the militants fled to Afghan soil in order to conduct terrorist activities in Pakistan. Through the development of confidence, intelligence sharing and cooperation from both sides, terrorism could be eliminated. The complete crack down of terrorism could be done if similar types of military operations are going to be conducted on the other side of the border.

Presently the rehabilitation and reconstruction of TDPs infrastructure is being carried out in two phases. In the primary phase, houses, shops, hospitals, roads and schools are being built and the second phase needs extensive reconstruction that can take more than two years. Around 40,000 of total IDP population have returned home. The whole process of rehabilitation would require approximately Rs. 100 billion, due to lack of funds, the federal government had allocated Rs13 billion hitherto. The rehabilitation process cannot be done by one organization or the armed forces alone. Various institutions will have to work together to complete it. However, the lack of political will towards rehabilitation process is visible; most of the work is being carried out by Pakistan Army. The failure of government policy towards rehabilitation of TDPs will be considered the failure of the army in developmental projects. The government must undertake prompt and concrete measures for rehabilitation and reconstruction with reference to immediate needs of IDPs. The resources must be properly allocated among IDPs. FATA Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation Strategy should be implemented within the time frame given. The international organization should also support to build infrastructure instead of only paying lip service.

The RRU conducted the "Housing Damages Survey" in SWA and Khyber Agency "FATA Housing programme" is being launched to rebuild damaged and destroyed houses. The housing programme will provide better accommodation to the people on return. FATA youth package is also introduced by the army according to which, 14,000 youth from FATA will be recruited in the army in the next five years, 1500 students would be accommodated in Army Public Schools and Colleges and would be granted admissions on quota basis in various military colleges. Technical skills would be imparted to students through programmes at technical institutes in major cantonments and arrangements would be made for large scale overseas employment of youth. Besides this, building of Cadet Colleges at Wana and Spinkai, establishment of Waziristan Institute of Technical Education and Wana Institute of Technical Training and opening up of Women Skill Development Centre at various places to educate and to provide skilled labour to women and youth in FATA would be significant steps taken by the government (Ijaz, December 8, 2015). The Government of Pakistan through its various ministries and departments such as the Economic Affairs Division

Evaluating Rehabilitation Process in FATA

of the Finance Ministry, Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), and the FATA Secretariat, is currently focused on finalizing and funding the plans for the return, reconstruction and rehabilitation of IDPs.

Conclusion

The present army offensive in FATA is proved to be a turning point in global war on terror. The long delayed military offensive in North Waziristan agency was due to lack of unanimous political decision. The area which was earlier a nucleus of terrorist activities is now under army's clean-up strikes. Most of the areas are cleared out of terrorists' safe haven and the armed forces of Pakistan are continued to unleash a military onslaught near Afghan border. Once the ongoing military offensive is completed, the huge challenges confronting the government of Pakistan and local and international organizations are repatriation of IDPs, rehabilitation and initiation of infrastructure-structure related projects. For the civilian leadership of Pakistan, it should not be an impossible task as it handled the Swat IDPs which is internationally hailed as an achievement. The government should do all to alley the sufferings of IDPs and make their lives as comfortable as possible. Efforts should be made to win the hearts and minds of the IDPs. As the armed offensive is nearing its end, the government should be ready to confront every contingency. The repatriation of IDPs should be most systematically planned and they should be best managed.

A way forward for the Local Communities

- A comprehensive policy of rehabilitation and reconstruction should be devised in FATA and in KPK after broad discussion with Pakistani government, reliable local NGOs and professional organizations, and the national and provincial parliaments;
- a complete mechanism should be developed for the distribution of assistance in IDP communities;
- large-scale infrastructural projects in FATA and KPK should be given through competitive and transparent bidding;
- to integrate FATA into the constitutional, political and legal mainstream, with criminal justice sector should be implemented;
- banned and other jihadi groups operating under changed names should be stopped from taking part in relief works;
- training to develop ability of civilian law enforcement agencies and to retain security beyond the military offensive ends should be given;
- and, political and public support to confront terrorism in KPK and to implement political and constitutional reforms in FATA should be done.

A way forward for the International Agencies

- Evaluation of necessities, existing logistic and other resources, material aid, much-needed assistance to civilians in conflict zones and to take account for civilian casualties should be determined by international humanitarian agencies;
- prioritize and ensure the relief and reconstruction efforts keeping in view the needs and priorities of IDPs;
- support Pakistan government's plan for return of IDPs to their homes and reconstruction program;
- facilitate building up capacity police and advancing judicial reforms;
- registration of vulnerable civilians, the distribution of aid, the carrying out of extensive relief and reconstruction on non-discriminatory basis and help developing civilian disaster management capacity at the national, provincial and district levels;
- and, address immediate needs of people in KPK and FATA, including protection, health education and shelter; restart rural sector; and offer material aid and cash transfers as well.

Evaluating Rehabilitation Process in FATA

References:

Assessment Report North Waziristan Agency IDP's. MAP- MEAL Department

Assessment Report of IDP's".(June 24, 2014). Retrieved from <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Assessment%20Report%20of%20NWA%20IDP's%20%20June%2024%202014.pdf>.

Bloomfield, D., Barnes, T. & Huyse, L (Eds.). (2003). Reconciliation after violent conflict: A handbook. Stockholm, Sweden: Bulls Tryckeri AB Halmstad.

Carbonnier, G. (1998, March). Conflict, postwar rebuilding and the economy: A critical review of the literature. WSP Occasional Paper No. 2. Retrieved from http://mercury.ethz.ch/serviceengine/Files/ISN/38682 /ipublication_document singledocument/3e9d2a67-4965-45e2-9c77-9e0f6a356230/en/WS-OP+02.pdf

"COAS visits forward most locations near Pak-Afghan border". (July 03, 2015). *The Nation*.

Collier, P., Hoeffler, A. & Soderbom, M. (2008). Post conflict risks. *Journal of Peace Research*, 45(4), 461-478.

Daily Times, June 27, 2014.

Dawn June 18, 2014.

Dawn, June 19, 2014.

Dawn July 8, 2014.

Dawn, May 4, 2015.

Emergency Response for Internally Displaced Persons from North Waziristan Agency in Pakistan. (July, 2014). UNHCR. Retrieved from <http://www.unhcr.org/53da47479.pdf>.

FATA Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation Strategy. (March 2015) Report prepared by FATA Secretariat, Government of Pakistan. Retrieved from <https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/PAK/FATA%20 Sustainable%20R%20and%20R%20Strategy.pdf>

Flash Appeal North Waziristan IDP – Crises. GPP – IDPs Support and Rehabilitation Fund".(n.d) <http://www.globalpeace.net.pk/files/File/Flash%20>

[Appeal%20for%20Rehabilitation%20and%20Support%20for%20IDPs%20of%20North%20Waziristan%20- %20GPP.pdf](#).

Global Cluster Lead. (June 2012). UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Retrieved from [https://www.humanitarian response.info /en/coordination/clusters/what-cluster-approach](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/coordination/clusters/what-cluster-approach)

“IDPs of FATA: Issues and Challenges” (2013, April). FATA Research Centre. Retrieved from: <http://www.slideshare.net/fatanews/id-ps-of-fata-seminar-report-frc-2013-04>.

Ijaz, Aymen. (2015, December 8). Post-Operation Zarb-e-Azb: Security and rehabilitation challenges. IPRI Building Consensus. Retrieved from <http://www.ipripak.org/post-operation-zarb-e-azb-security-and-rehabilitation-challenges/#sthash.eC3M7AP1.dpbs>.

Javaid, U. & Raazia I. (2015). “Non-traditional security threat in South Asia with particular orientation to IDP’s in Pakistan”. *Journal of Political Studies*, 22(2), 471.

Khan, H. & Ahmed, I. (2014). Internally displaced persons and health challenges. *Gomal Journal of Medical Sciences*. 12(2), 43.

Kumar, K. (1998). After the elections: Consequences for democratization in Krishna, Kumar (ed.) (1998). Post conflict elections, democratization and international assistance. London, LDN: Lynne Reinner & Boulder Co.

Maier, R. (2010, 21 January). Early recovery in post conflict countries: A conceptual study. *Clingendael Conflict Research Unit (CRU)*, p. 12. Retrieved from <http://www.clingendael.nl/sites/default/files/20100201crupapermaier.pdf>

Mass exodus From Pakistani border. (2014) Retrieved from <http://ozzmodz.com/showthread.php/3674-Mass-exodus-from-Pakistan-order>.

Manan, A. (2014, December 10). “Zarb-e-Azb inflicted the fatal blow on the terrorists: PM”. *The Express Tribune*.

Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment BannuRepert. (July 2014). MIRA Report For Bannu V1_26 July 2014 Final.pdf. Retrieved from http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MIRA%20Report%20For%20Bannu%20V1_26%20July%202014%20Final.pdf.

Evaluating Rehabilitation Process in FATA

“NWA Displacements Situation Report No. 8”. (July 24, 2014) OCHA. Retrieved from: reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA%20Pakistan_NWA%20Displacements_Situation%20Report%20No.%208_Final.pdf.

“Pakistan North Waziristan Agency IDP Crisis Following the Zarb-e-Azb Operation”. (27 June 2014). ACAPS Briefing Note. Retrieved from http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/briefing_note_pakistan_displacement_june_2014.pdf.

Pakistan: Humanitarian snapshot - internal displacement North Waziristan. (2014, 24 June). OCHA. Retrieved from <http://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/pakistan-humanitarian-snapshot-internal-displacement-north-waziristan-24-jun-2014>.

“Pakistan: North Waziristan Displacements Situation Report No. 2”. (25 June 2014) OCHA. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA%20Pakistan_NWA%20Displacements_Situation%20Report%20No.2.pdf. Pugh, M. (1998, 11 December). Post-conflict rehabilitation: Social and civil dimensions.

Rana, S. (February 19, 2015). Seeking assistance: Zarb-e-Azb to cost \$1.3b, Dar tells US legislator. *The Express Tribune*.

Salam, A. & Bttani I. (2015, April 01). IDPs' return to North Waziristan begins. *Dawn*.

UN Guiding Principles on Internally Displacement. (April 2001). OCHA. Retrieved from http://www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/pub/idp_gp/idp.html

Yousaf, K. (December 8, 2014). “Winding up the offensive: Army gives nod for return of IDPs to N Waziristan”. *The Express Tribune*.

“Zarb-e-Azb: North Waziristan IDPs persistently face difficulties”. (2014, June 30). Retrieved from: <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-152344-Zarb-e-Azb:-North-Waziristan-IDPs-persistently-face-difficulties->.

Zeeuw, J. D. (2001, August). Building peace in war torn societies. *Clingendael Institute*, p. 7.