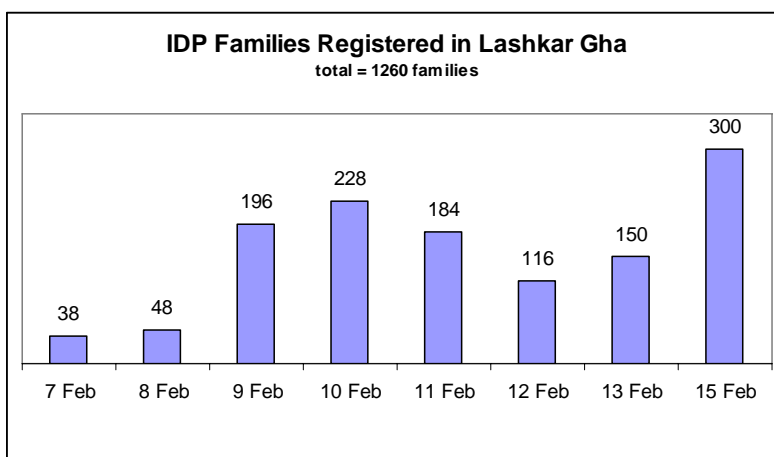


Update #2 on Helmand Displacement, 16 Feb 2010

The following is an update on the humanitarian consequences of Operation Mostaraq in Helmand province since OCHA's last report on 11 February:

Displacements: As of 15 February, DoRR, with the support and assistance of UNHCR, has registered a total of 1260 displaced families from Marjah and Nad Ali in Lashkar Gha. UN implementing partners continue to verify the registrations and distribute food and NFIs from WFP and UNICEF; 1120 families are verified to date and more than 500 have already received assistance. Most IDPs are staying with host families and no gaps in shelter are reported.



UNAMA Nimroz reports that approximately 300 families from Marja and Nad Ali have arrived in Khashrod district of Nimroz province. An assessment of the 300 families was conducted by UN implementing partner BRAC and the Governor's Office on 16 February. Humanitarian agencies have developed a plan to provide food (from WFP), NFIs (from UNHCR and UNICEF), tankered water (from RRD), and health services (from BRAC and DoPH/WHO) to the displaced families within the next 24 hours. There are no shelter needs reported.

Other reported displacements outside Lashkar Gha include 110 families in Nawa district reported to DoPH and UNICEF and displacements to Bolan district reported to UNHCR. It continues to be difficult to assess population displacement in remote areas and no further information is available at this time.

Conflict-affected civilians: Protection of civilians in the conflict area continues to be a major concern. On 14 February ISAF confirmed that 12 civilians were killed by rockets in Nad Ali district and announced that use of rockets in the operation would be suspended until the incident was reviewed. There are reports that roads from Marja and Nad Ali to Lashkar Gha are currently blocked by military checkpoints; there may be an increase in arrivals in Lashkar Gha once it is possible for the civilian population to move.

Polio vaccination campaign: National Immunization Days were held 14-16 February. MoPH and WHO decided to postpone immunizations in Marja, Nad Ali, Sanghin, and Musaqala districts of Helmand province due to the conflict. WHO is mobilizing additional immunization teams to target displaced children in Lashkar Gha and in Nimroz.