In the first quarter of HSP 2017, Food Security Cluster planned to assist a total of 580,065 individuals in the areas of displacement and returns in FATA and KP through nutritious food, cash transfer programming, livestock, agriculture including rehabilitation of productive and community infrastructure.

Food Security Cluster managed to assist 567,272 individuals through FAO, WFP, CARE International and Japan Emergency NGO (JEN), responding and contributing to the HSP objectives of food security; i. Ensure crisis affected population both in return areas and displacement have equitable access (physical, social, and economic) to sufficient, safe and nutritious food through in-kind and/or cash assistance. ii) Ensure livelihood opportunities for the affected communities through conditional support to restore, protect, and improve livelihood assets.

FAO established 1408 fruit orchards in Khyber Agency “807 fruit orchards (sweet orange, guava, plum apricot, pears, and pomegranate)”, Kurram Agency “127 orchards (plum, cherry, and apricot)” and South Waziristan Agency “474 orchards (cherry, plum and apricot)”. Along the establishment of fruit orchards FAO provided necessary tools and equipment’s (pruning cutter, pruning Sesser and pruning saw and wheel barrow) and capacity building training sessions on fruit orchard management and pot plantation care to the fruit orchard owners. This activity is aimed to rehabilitate the agriculture-based economy and to generate the permanent source of income in long run.

WFP assisted 554,394 individuals (127,510 Women, 127,510 Men, 166,319 Boys and 133,055 Girls) in both the areas of displacement and return through General Food Distribution (GFD). In addition, WFP has also been supporting returnees through Cash for Work (CFW) and Food for Work (FFW) activities with the aim to rehabilitate their means of livelihood infrastructure (irrigation channels and other community infrastructure) while they engaged 1844 families through cash interventions. CARE International with the implementation support of IDEA and SABAWON (LNGOs) provided Conditional CASH Grants (CCG) to 1950HHs and CASH for Work (CFW) to 540 individuals to the IDPs living with host communities in district Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan.

To ensure quick impact on household food security and complement the cash transfer, CCG is subjected to the participation in food security, nutrition, dietary diversity and hygiene promotion trainings. While CFW is engaged in improvement of community infrastructure. The cash transfers are made through, Tameer bank and having unrivaled access to villages across the province through its mobile service vehicles.

JEN distributed 77 cows, 750 livestock feed, 750 de-wormers, 54 drenching guns and provided Livestock Management trainings to 750 (621 Men and 129 Women). The second phase of the project is not yet started properly, except procurement, warehouse hiring.
FATA In-Depth Food Security and Livelihood Assessment among Returnees

The In-depth Food Security and Livelihood Assessment among 2,100 returned households currently residing in 7 Agencies of FATA was conducted in February-March 2017. It estimates that overall 24 percent of the returned households are food insecure. Among them only 1 percent are severely and 23 percent are moderately food insecure.

There is a significant and consistent reduction in the overall food insecurity rate from 44 percent in 2015 to 24 percent in 2017. The severe food insecurity rate declined from 5 percent to 1 percent, and moderate food insecurity rate from 39 percent to 23 percent.

Improved food security is likely related to improved food consumption and dietary diversity; significantly reduced number of households adopted unviable and depleted crisis and emergency livelihood coping strategies; a very low number of households reported experiencing any shock; improved conditions of dwelling, access to improved water sources; remarkably improved security situation; appropriate responses in terms of unconditional food and cash transfers, food for asset creation, right time of providing these interventions and relevant targeting focused on the first 12 months of the return when households are more food insecure and have higher needs for food and cash assistance.

Despite significant improvement in food consumption as compared with 2015, the following challenges remain to be addressed: a) Food insecurity has increased and remains high in Orakzai, North Waziristan and Mohmand Agencies, b) Proportion of the surveyed households with low dietary diversity still accounts for 24 percent, c) Economical vulnerability and poor food access measured by the food expenditure share is increased or unchanged. Overall, 29 percent of households reported spending a high share (>65 percent) or very high share (>75 percent) of their total household expenditure on food, as compared to 19 percent in 2015, d) Strong dependency on market purchases make vulnerable households highly susceptible to market price fluctuations, especially when foods become scarce, e) Overall, 5 percent of total households still reported adopting crisis strategies, and another 11 percent adopted emergency irreversible strategies. These irreversible coping strategies would negatively impact food security and livelihood in the future, and f) Food insecurity is predominantly chronic in nature across the Agencies which requires medium and longer term interventions to address structural causes.

The final report is planned to be published in the last week of May, 2017.

Joint UN Observation Mission to Drought Affected Areas of Sindh

A joint UN observation mission was conducted on request of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Government of Sindh to assess the impacts of long dry spell on agriculture (crop production and livestock), food security, health and nutrition and livelihood strategies of population and their coping capacity in Sanghar, Umerkot and Tharparkar districts in Sindh.

The joint mission found that the rains were not timely and did not prove adequate for agriculture activities to the required extent resulting in less yield per acre compared to normal year in Tharparkar and Umerkot. The households in the surveyed villages in desert areas were observed to be vulnerable in terms of food availability and accessibility, as no cereal stocks were reported at the household level and markets are far involving huge transportation cost. Most households are buying food/non-food items from the markets on credit, indicating not having enough resources to buy food/non-food items. Thus, the overall food security and livelihood situation of the households in these areas remains fragile. The outlook for the next few months suggested that the areas could fall more fragile in terms of food security, if there are no or limited rains in the coming monsoon.

Major livestock losses, during the past six months were reported, due to several livestock diseases (PPR, FMD and skin diseases), low availability of water and fodder. Livestock losses were mainly of small ruminants; goats between 20%-40% and sheep between 35%-50%. The communities also
reported less than sufficient or least availability of water, fodder and medicines for livestock. Fodder availability is currently inadequate in desert areas of Umerkot and Sanghar and with depleting grazing areas for livestock, fodder availability could be a matter of concern for the livestock in next few months. Livestock diseases and deaths need immediate attention, as livestock is the main source of food and livelihoods for households in these communities. The participants in the FGDs reported that their household monthly income, currently around Rs. 6000-7000, has reduced by Rs. 2000-3000 per month compared to last year, is hardly sufficient to meet the monthly expenditures. Less rain, less land cultivation, low crop yields and deaths of livestock have been reported as the main contributing factors in reduction in household income.

Water scarcity is another immediate concern; water is available at long distances and water from majority of the sources appears not safe for drinking. The households have to travel 2-15 kilometers, often using camels or donkey carts, to collect drinking water. Health and nutrition of children and women is another matter of immediate concern. Communities have to avail healthcare facilities in the main cities, even for the minor health concerns. These facilities are located very far from the communities at 35-60 kilometers with higher transportation cost, compounded by lack of availability of frequent transport might influence the decision to delay or not seek health care. Furthermore, limited assistance has been extended during the past six months in the

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

The IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Analysis Workshop, held in December 2016, concluded with the key proposal of including additional indicators and data to further enrich and strengthen the current drafted analysis. After consensus from major stakeholders additional outcome indicators such as Starchy Staple Ratio, Starchy Staple Expenditure Ratio, Prevalence of Undernourishment, Food Consumption Score and % of cash expenditure spent on food were prepared at district level. These indicators were prepared with the technical support of IPC Global Support unit and FAO-Statistics division. In order to incorporate the above indicators and to finalize the 1st draft of results a follow up workshop is held in the 1st week of April. After the follow up workshop the findings will be shared with provincial and federal level stakeholders for feedback and endorsement and hopefully the results will be available in the month of May for the government endorsement and wider dissemination. The results and findings of IPC Chronic Analysis will feed into the development of programmes, upcoming strategies and action plans (medium and long-term) in the province of Sindh.

Inter-Cluster Cash Working Group Annual Report – 2016

The annual Cash Working Group Report has been developed for the year 2016. We anticipate here the following highlights from this report, reflecting the activities and initiatives of the Inter-Cluster Cash Working Group:

1- Contribution in the Household Economic Analysis
Household Economy Analysis, or HEA, is an analytical framework that takes as its starting point how households secure their food and income in an average year, and what goods and services they purchase with their income. The question then asked is when a shock occurs, what happens to food and income access, and how does this affect what households can purchase, and whether they can meet their basic survival and livelihood protection needs. HEA was conducted in Jamshoro, Umerkot and Tharparkar districts of Sindh.

2- Participation in the PCMA
The Pre-Crisis Market Analysis (PCMA) was conducted in the Jamshoro, Umerkot, and Tharparkar districts of Sindh, Pakistan from November 30th to December 11, 2016. The PCMA was premised on a drought emergency scenario for Umerkot and Tharparkar districts and both flood and drought for Jamshoro district. The PCMA looked at market functionality in ‘normal’ and ‘emergency’ times, how the market has responded to past emergencies, and how it
might respond to future emergencies.

3- Harmonization of wage rates for KP and FATA
The Cash Working Group and Food Security Cluster held meetings in Islamabad (National level) and Peshawar (Provincial level) in March, April and May 2016 for harmonization of daily wages for un-skilled labor for KP and FATA. In continuation of the given approach, CWG developed and released a formal guideline document for the CTP practitioners.

4- Capacity Building of Stakeholders
CWG organized 4 sets of CTP trainings in 2016. Out of these trainings, one was CaLP Level 2 training. The 21 participants (4 women and 17 men) came from 16 organizations. Out of them, 7 were working for UN agencies, 2 for ECHO, 9 for INGOs and 5 for local NGOs. Most of participants were based in Islamabad (11) and the rest (10) in other provinces like Peshawar, Hyderabad, etc. Most participants held program managerial positions, and three of them are CTP program officers.

5- Development of CTP Trainer’s Roster
CWG took the initiative to collect information regarding CTP experts for developing a CTP Trainer’s Roster. The rationale for development of this roster is to have a list of CTP experts who have the expertise and the skill to train others on CTP. The roster selection followed a step-wise approach from development of selection criteria, application by CTP practitioners and then final evaluation by technical group. The roster is a live document which will be updated on a yearly basis and is open for all CWG members to request for support for trainings on CTP.