Urbanisation and the post-2015 agenda in Pakistan: a case study of Peshawar

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3rd of December 2013
Conference organised by the Muslim Charities Forum
Church House, Westminster
Overview

- Pakistan is one of South Asia’s most urbanised countries:
  - Currently 37% urbanised; by 2025 50% urbanised

- Why is it important to think about urbanisation in the context of the MDGs?

- The case study of Peshawar illustrates the challenges of rapid urbanisation and protracted displacement.

- Part of a wider HPG/ODI research project on urbanisation and urban displacement in 7 urban centres in Africa, the Middle East and Asia
What did the report of the High-Level Panel say?

- ‘Cities are where the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost’

- ‘Inclusive growth emanates from vibrant and sustainable cities’

- ‘Cities are the world’s engines for business and innovation. With good management they can provide jobs, hope and growth, while building sustainability.

- ‘Good local governance, management and planning are the keys to making sure that migration to cities does not replace one form of poverty by another’
Urban Growth and Settlement Patterns in Pakistan

- Annual rate of urbanisation of 3% – the **fastest pace** in South Asia

- More than **half of Pakistan’s population** is clustered around eight urban cities

- Urbanisation in Pakistan **traditionally driven by migration**

- Today, urbanisation continues to be driven **by conflict, insecurity and natural disasters**, as well as **economic migration and natural demographic expansion**
Peshawar case study: Livelihoods

- **Significant disparity** between urban rich and poor:
- Yet **little variance** in the livelihood strategies of the **urban poor** – whether displaced or not
- Currently **many displaced people’s livelihoods are not improving over time** – asset depletion
- Many **positive examples** of **cooperation** between residents and refugees or IDPs - opportunities to support
Peshawar case study: Basic Services & Infrastructure

- Basic services **overcrowded** and **infrastructure insufficient** for growing population, in particular in informal /slum areas
- Poorer residents and displaced people **increasingly pushed to outskirts of town** (which are insecure and often lack basic services and infrastructure)
- Issues of **land tenure insecurity and high rising rents**
Peshawar case study: Urban Policy and Planning

- Unsuccessful attempts to implement **Masterplans**
- **Urban policy formulation and planning has fallen behind reality** of rapid urbanisation and presence of large numbers of urban displaced
- **Urban planning architecture fragmented** – though KP Local Government Act provides a key opportunity to engage
- **Lack of technical capacity** at local government level
Recommendations

- Support to **longer term livelihood programmes** that benefit both the displaced and poor residents
- Support **pro-poor, inclusive urban development**
- **Holistic** urban planning structures
- **Partnerships with the private sector** based on principle of **equitable access**
- **Stronger coordination and collaboration** among government, civil society, development and humanitarian actors
- **Harness and support positive contributions** that cities can bring through new skills, business, innovation
• Overall plan and realistic vision for urbanisation **to manage growth, ensure equitable access to services, and to meet the development needs of all long-term residents** will be crucial to support Pakistan in its post 2015 development agenda.
THANK YOU!