EDITOR’S NOTE:

CAMP welcomes its readers to another exciting issue of the e-newsletter ‘Voices from FATA’ containing news, views and updates from the tribal region of Pakistan.

This newsletter was initially a brain child of the Communities for Change (CFC) project which began in May 2009 and ended in March this year. However, its legacy continues as we observe outcomes of this project as a result of many hundreds of lives we have touched during its operational period. In this issue, we present an overview of the CFC project and its continuing impact on the tribal people, civil society and interventions which continue to transform minds and change lives. Our cover story titled, “Communities for Change: 2009 – 2013 – Gauging the Impact” starts from Page 2.

September 2013 turned out to be the most violent month of this year for the entire country, especially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. One of the most deadly attacks this month was perpetrated upon the historic All Saints Memorial Church in Peshawar killing 78 and injuring 100 Christian worshippers. In this issue, we remember the significance and history of this church and strongly condemn this incident as an act of extremist intolerance (Page 4).

In contrast, FATA was relatively peaceful while the rest of the country was engulfed in a fresh wave of violence during the months of September and October 2013; details are provided in the “FATA Security Monitor” on Page 4.

And highlights of important news are provided in the section titled ‘FATA in the News’ on Page 5.

We at CAMP hope and pray for a more peaceful, tolerant and progressive Pakistan where place of worship are respected and not merely targets of spreading terror and extremism!
AN IDEA FOR CHANGE...

The ‘Communities for Change’ (CFC) project was envisioned as a means to bring about a demand for legal and constitutional reforms within the tribal belt after popular opinion reflected a need for change in a first ever 2007 FATA survey conducted under the ‘Understanding FATA’ series.

In May 2009 CAMP launched the ‘Communities for Change’ project with an objective to empower the communities of FATA to assert and protect their social, political and economic rights as well as actively develop their resilience to sectarian and inter-tribal conflict and influences in three selected agencies of FATA; Khyber, Mohmand and Kurram.

THE BEGINNING OF CHANGE...

Despite difficulties such as geographical constraints, rising insurgency and military operations, the project was implemented successfully and achieved its targets throughout its lifetime.

The CFC project can be divided into four general categories or thematic areas of capacity building, networking, advocacy and youth empowerment. Details of the achievements of the project in these areas are provided as follows.

**Project Profile**
- **Duration:** May 2009 – March 2013
- **Target Areas:** Khyber, Mohmand & Kurram
- **Thematic Areas:** Capacity Building, Networking, Advocacy & Youth Empowerment

**Conflict Resolution**
CSOs were provided with training on conflict resolution skills which enabled them to actively intervene in various disputes and issues faced by communities. The trainings on Conflict Resolutions skills played a vital role in enhancing the skills of CSOs members to take proper measures in resolving even years long inter tribal conflicts. Several case studies depicting the CSOs role in resolving conflicts have been shared in reports. While processing the conflict cases the CSOs involved different stakeholders who could play a role in the peaceful resolution of the issue.
Advocacy & Communication

Through the CFC project, CAMP set the landscape for a need based, well-informed and sustainable grassroots advocacy and lobbying movement to enable the CSOs’ network and its leadership to influence government policy makers, coordinate with and inform government departments and other stakeholders on identified key social issues, set their local peace and development agenda, and design and implement development and conflict prevention activities. Furthermore, CAMP believed that this would play a major role in preventing conflicts in the tribal communities by developing individual and institutional skills that could promote a culture of constructive problem solving, cooperative negotiation and dialogue, and dispute resolution within tribal societies, which will ultimately lead to development and prosperity of the local people.

Apart from the CSOs’ initiatives the several other activities were also undertaken at regional as well as national level to advocate for the protection of social, economic and political rights of the people of FATA and for restoration of peace in the region.

Networking

The training on networking skills under the CFC project helped CSOs realise the importance of building networks while working in social and development sectors. The participants learnt techniques and dynamics of networking in the trainings. By utilising these techniques the CSOs developed networks with NGOs, donor agencies, FATA secretariat projects, and government departments. As a result, these CSOs are now running different developmental and advocacy based projects in collaboration with various departments.

Impact of Youth Council

The activities held under FATA Youth forum/Council have provided youth an opportunity to express themselves positively and unlock their potentials and hidden qualities.

- Poetry Competition (Mushaira) on peace and role of youth was widely welcome by youngsters and media, where young poets expressed themselves openly and condemn terrorism and extremism, as well as formulate solutions for peace, harmony and brotherhood.
- The prevailing security scenario in FATA has negatively affected young and renowned singers in propagating peace and tolerance. A musical session was organised and dedicated to peace, harmony and brotherhood, which enabled a wide range of youth to promote positive trends through music.
- The cultural festivals enabled youth to present their indigenous cultural heritage, and to promote the spirit of friendship, peace and development. These events also provided nation-wide exposure to the youth for expression and fulfilment of their cultural talents and aspirations, as well as promoting teamwork and leadership amongst the younger generation.
- The first FATA & KP Youth Games were held under the Youth Forum in joint collaboration with the Directorate of sports FATA and KP Olympic Association in which 124 players and 50 technical officials from across FATA & KP participated including females athletes/players.
- “Promoting Democratic Values and a Culture of Peace Amongst Youth”: Organised for youth of FATA to enable understanding on burning issues for awareness-raising on civic and political issues including leadership. This will be helpful for youth to engage them in civic, economic and political discourse.
REMEMBERING ALL SAINTS’ MEMORIAL CHURCH, PESHAWAR

The All Saints Memorial Church, which opened on St John’s Day, December 27th, 1883, is located inside the Kohati gate of the old walled city of Peshawar. It is architecturally unique as it resembles Islamic mosques with minarets and a dome unlike other churches. Nevertheless, the mosque-like architecture with numerous columns, minarets and oriental arches are flawlessly symmetrical and add to the beauty of the church.

This 124 year old place of worship is waiting to be declared a protected national monument. It is always open to visitors on Sundays and has the capacity to hold about 200 people. The walls are covered in text from various languages including Persian, Urdu, Pashtu, Arabic, English and Hebrew.

“Remembering Peshawar’s All Saints’ Church”

On Sunday, 22nd September 2013, during a service at the All Saints’ Church, two suicide blasts ripped through the church compound killing 78 people and injuring over 100. The historical church building itself sustained much damage; windows were shattered, walls were gouged with ball bearings used in the explosives, and a Bible on the alter was torn and scattered amongst the debris.

“Terrorists have no religion and targeting innocent people is against the teachings of Islam and all religions.”
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

“It is an extremely shameful attack and has shamed all Pakistanis and Muslims.”
Allama Tahir Mahmud Ashrafi, Pakistan Ulema Council

CAMP also strongly condemns this heinous attack and expresses unwavering solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters across the country. We call for an end to such extremism which promotes intolerance and disrespect for others’ beliefs and practices.

FATA SECURITY MONITOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF INCIDENT</th>
<th>SEPT</th>
<th>OCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bomb attacks</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landmine explosions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortar shelling</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide bombings</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEDs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drone attacks</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military/SF operations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By unidentified/militant groups</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocket/missile attacks</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
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</table>

While a wave of violence erupted across the country in the months of September and October 2013, the tribal region remained relatively peaceful. September 2013 witnessed 19 incidents of violence including three bomb attacks and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) each, one mortar shelling, six attacks by militants/unidentified groups and two cross border rocket/missile attacks which resulted in 50 casualties and 28 injured persons. In October 2013, the violence went down further with a total of 10 incidents which caused seven deaths and injured eight people. Meanwhile, four drone attacks were reported only in September which killed 21 suspected militants and injured another 11 people.

On 15th September, all public and private schools at Miranshah (North Waziristan Agency, FATA) reopened after successful negotiations between the TTP and local administration. As per media reports, students have started going to school again after a gap of four months and 20 days. Local TTP had imposed the ban on children going to school after a blast occurred on a check post in Miranshah on May 12, 2013.

FATA IN THE NEWS

FATA mineral sector offers tremendous opportunities for investors: Governor

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Engineer Shaukatullah has said that the mineral sector in FATA offers tremendous opportunities for investors to promote their businesses and generate economic activities for local people as well. He was talking to a group of Chinese investors accompanied by their Pakistani partners who called on him at the Governor's House on Tuesday.

The Governor particularly mentioned the recently developed Mohmand Marble City, the first ever industrial estate in FATA and said that not only has an uninterrupted electricity supply been made available but the development cost of Rs. 1 million was also paid for a one acre industrial plot.

Welcoming the keen interests of the investors in the upgradation of raw chromite and copper which are abundantly available in Mohmand, Bajaur and South Waziristan agencies, the Governor said, “Mohmand Marble City is ideal for processing purposes and promises great benefits to investors”. It merits a mention here that investors at present have to transport hundreds of tons of raw material from mine sites in FATA to Karachi and other parts of the country.

Talking on various points, the Governor said, “Apart from Mohmand Marble City, the government can also facilitate potential investors in installing their processing plants at various sites”, and for this he ensured the availability of a one window operation at the FATA Secretariat. Such initiatives, he said, are also the best contribution towards further solidifying the ongoing efforts of the government to maintain peace and bring normalcy to the terrorism hit areas.


Despite peace overtures, 1,048 killed in September says report

ISLAMABAD: September turned out to be the deadliest month of this year in terms of acts of violence as 1,048 people were killed across the country, a 35 percent increase compared to the previous month, according to a press release.

According to a report by the Centre for Research and Security Studies, violence-related casualties during September number 1,048, out of which 493 persons were killed and 555 injured.

This proved to be a significant increase of 35% compared to 774 casualties in August; 432 deaths and 342 injured.

Peshawar and its surrounding areas in particular witnessed some of the deadliest attacks towards the end of September

More than half of the casualties were reported in the last nine days, from September 22 to 30, when 240 persons died and over 370 persons were injured throughout the country.

According to the report, while the participants of the All Parties Conference (APC) agreed to seek an end to the militancy through negotiations, the joint resolution issued after the conference failed to clearly identify stakeholders on the other side and whether the talks would be held within the limits defined by the Constitution.

From September 22 to 30, 240 persons died and over 370 were injured
The report stated that the peace overtures made by the government and various political parties, however, were not enough to dissuade terrorists from violence.

Peshawar and its surrounding areas in particular witnessed some of the deadliest attacks towards the end of September.

There were 28 drone casualties in five drone attacks in September, 24 deaths and four injuries, stated the report.

There was some respite for Balochistan, as it experienced a significant reduction in violence-related deaths last month.

Compared to 138 deaths in August, there were 53 persons who lost their lives due to violence in September, an almost 40 percent reduction.

However, unsuccessful attempts were made by insurgents to target high-profile government officials during the rescue operation for the earthquake affected people of Awaran.

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**FATA local government elections need of the hour**

PESHAWAR: Naib Ameer, FATA of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Zarnoor Afridi has said that the basic rights of FATA could be guaranteed if an amendment was made in Article 247 of the Constitution of Pakistan [and highlighted] local government elections in tribal areas as a need of the hour.

Zarnoor Afridi in this statement issued from Armarkaz-e-Islami said that the special package to be announced for affected tribal people is crucial in order to enable them to stand on their own feet as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in general and FATA in particular have been seriously affected by the war against terrorism.

Tribal people were pushed further into darkness by elected representatives when they did not amend Article 247 at the time of endorsing the 18th Amendment.

Political, democratic, social, financial and judicial rights have been guaranteed to every Pakistani citizen under the Constitution while tribal people have been deprived from these rights in the presence of the Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR), Afridi remarked. Bureaucrats are depriving the tribesmen of their rights under the guise of FCR, the Naib Ameer accused.

Local government elections should be announced in FATA before provinces as it would lead tribal men towards progress and development, Afridi said, adding that this would enable tribal people to get their rights at their doorstep. A well appreciated financial package would also bring people out of a crisis and they will thus be able to initiate business in their respective areas, he remarked.

Zarnoor Afridi is Naib Ameer FATA of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and a member of the [Political Parties Joint Committee on FATA Reforms](http://www.thefrontierpost.com/article/46301/) (FATA Committee)

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