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## NCHD to address health, education needs of IDPs

OUR STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD- National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) has decided to extend its health and educational operations for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in NWFP province.

Another area in which NCHD has intervened is the establishment of IDP camp schools in various tent villages. So far, NCHD has set up 8 tent schools in 4 tent villages in co-ordination with the District Education Department-Mardan. Number of children in these schools counts to more than 1000. In the coming days we aim to open more schools.

In these schools, besides formal education, our aim is to engage the children in recreational activities so as to get them out of the trauma they are un-

dergoing at present. Similarly, we intend conducting various sport activities for these children, officials of NCHD said.

Sources in the commission told TheNation that District Commissioner Officer of Mardan met with officials of the NCHD to get special assistance for IDPs hailing from Swat and Malakand Division.

Zulfiqar Ahmad Chief Operating Officer and others were present in the meeting with DCO Mardan Muhammad Adil Khan. Talking to the NCHD delegation DCO Mardan informed that a large number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were lodged in 83 government schools in 35 union councils of the district and asked NCHD to provide mobile medical support to IDPs lodged in government schools. The NCHD official shared that NCHD had initiat-

ed various activities on war footing in the fields of Health, Education and other relief work.

"In Health, we are conducting mobile medical camps and covering the IDPs sheltered in various schools all over the District", sources said.

NCHD officials claimed that the minimum number of Mobile Medical camps held on a daily basis is 12.

"Our target is to cover more than 400 IDPs camps in schools", they determined. Sources said that the District Government has closed all schools and the school buildings are also being used as IDP camps.

During the past days, thousands of IDPs have been provided medical support through NCHD's Mobile Medical Camps, they maintainde. "We intend continuing these camps on daily basis and have already chalked out

a three months program for conducting these Medical Camps. In addition, a fully equipped ambulance is available at our Base Camp for transporting emergency cases to the two referral points in the city", said Qammar Jammal, an NCHD official.

He said that Chairperson Special Committee on National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) Faryal Talpur instructed NCHD to extend all possible support for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Swat, Buner, and Lower Dir who have displaced from their homes to Mardan, Swabi and other areas of NWFP.

Responding to the appeal by Faryal Talpur the directors of Pakistan Human Development Fund (PHDF) have responded with immediate worth Rupees five million for IDPs, he added.