

POST CONFLICT STABILITY OPERATIONS IN FATA (COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENTAL STRATEGY)

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ABSTRACT

This paper explains the need of integrating FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Area) into national mainstream and options available for its economic development and social uplifting. It also highlights the significance of a comprehensive methodology for sustainable development of FATA. Few questions have also been put across for profound analysis of the envisaged end state of stability operations. It also encompasses the strategy for engagement of youth of FATA with the view to recommending specific options for their integration.

Keywords: *FATA Mainstreaming, Development, Employment*

INTRODUCTION

The stability operations encompass military tasks and activities conducted in the conflict affected areas in synchronization with other elements of national power (EoNP) to reestablish and preserve the safe environment, provide the required government services and humanitarian assistance. The scope of the terms also includes the rehabilitation of Displaced People (DP) with assured living and earnings for interim period till alternate employment opportunities are generated. This also warrants a well deliberated inter agency coordination with national and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) in rehabilitation efforts.

The FATA is the situated in the most remote and relatively inaccessible parts of the country, therefore, the overall socio-economic conditions of inhabitants have remained quite stumpy due to negative impact of ongoing security operations as well as lack of government's will in its mainstreaming. The Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), comprise seven 'political agencies' and six 'Frontier Regions'. FATA has border with Afghanistan on one side, while remaining three sides has the settled areas of Khyber Pakhtun Khuwa (KPK) Province.

AN OVERVIEW OF FATA

FATA MAP Showing Agencies



Source: "Map of FATA." <<http://Tribune.com.pk/Federally-Administered-Tribal-Areas-5295-W>>

DEMOGRAPHY

The FATA covers an area of 27,220 square kilometers equal to 3% of total area of Pakistan. Area wise, South Waziristan is the biggest agency and FR D.I. Khan is the biggest among FRs. As per 1998 census, the inhabitants of FATA are 3.138 million. According to population count, Bajaur is the largest Agency and among the FRs based on same criteria, FR Kohat is the largest. The FATA is occupied by eleven major tribes and many smaller ones (Mohammad Jan Orakzai, 2009). The Agency/ FRs wise details of area, population and major tribes are given at the table below:

Agency / FR	Area of FATA KMs	% of Area	Population (Millions)	% of Population	Tribes
Bajaur	1290	4.74	0.595	18.7	Utmankhel & Tarkani
Mohmand	2296	8.43	0.334	10.5	Mohmand, Safi & Utmankhel
Khyber	2576	9.46	0.547	17.2	Afridi, Shelmani, Shinwari & Mulagori
Kurram	3380	12.42	0.448	14.1	Turi, Bangash, Parachinari & Masozai
Orakzai	1538	5.65	0.225	7.1	Orakzai and Bangash
North Waziristan	4707	17.29	0.361	11.4	Utmanzai, Dawar, Saidgai, Kharasin & Gurbaz
South Waziristan	6620	24.32	0.430	13.6	Mahsud, Ahmadzai & Wazir
F.R. Peshawar	261	0.96	0.054	1.7	Afridi
F.R. Kohat	446	1.64	0.088	2.8	Afridi
F.R. Bannu	745	2.74	0.020	0.6	Wazirs & Bhattani
F.R. Lakki	132	0.48	0.007	0.1	Marwat
F.R. D.I. Khan	2008	7.38	0.039	1.2	Bhattani, Ustrana & Shirani
F.R. Tank	1221	4.49	0.027	0.9	Burki
Total	27220	100.0	3.138	100.0	

AGENCY WISE DEVELOPMENTAL POTENTIALS

FATA offers enormous developmental prospects, which if harnessed and capitalized well have the potentials of socio-economic turn around for the populace. The developmental potential of each agency is described below:

Bajaur Agency

In this agency, cultivation is the major source of generating economic activity, however, it is considered insufficient to endure all the inhabitants. The next major basis of economy is cattle farming. Besides that, minerals like copper and iron have been discovered in Khashkar valley. Carpets and Shawls are made in this area which coupled with Deodar forests are chief sources of income for majority of people. In the FY 2004 /5, Rupees 98.604 million were allotted for conducting survey of minerals in FATA (Khan, 2012).

Mohmand Agency

Major produce of this agency is firewood, charcoal, grass and dwarf palm (FATA Development Plan, 2015), which is considered insufficient to sustain the entire population; therefore, bulk of population rely on trade through Khyber Pass with Afghanistan.

Khyber Agency

Agriculture is the important source of sustenance along with trade (Agriculture Policy of FATA, 2014). Gun manufacturing at small scale is also carried out in Bara. Cattle farming have remained a popular occupation since long. The agency has inadequate industrial infrastructure with only three operational units; Bara Ghee Mills and two cigarette factories. A small silk processing unit is also located at Alam Gudra. Large deposits of Mullagori marbles have been estimated in the area, however, no exploration work has started as yet.

Orakzai Agency

Like other agencies of FATA, agriculture is mainstay of this agency as well. Few gun manufacturing industries at small scale also exist in the area.

Kurram Agency

Agriculture is the main occupation of people here. Major crops are wheat, maize, barley, rice and clover. Grapes, apples, pears, cherries, pomegranates and peaches. The forests of Chinar and Blue Pine also add to local economy (Civil Secretariat FATA, 2015).

North Waziristan

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy. Mulberry, Willow, Chinar, Gurgura and wild Olive are in abundance. Fruit plantations of apricot, apple and peaches complement

the economy of this troubled agency. Cattle farming are also a major occupation of residents.

South Waziristan

Rice, wheat, maize, barley are the main crops. Additionally, fruit orchards like apple and peaches also add to the local economy. The iron is found in the mountains surrounding Makin. Men prepare mats and ropes from dwarf palm and the women weave blankets from goat's hair and cloth from wool. With enduring stability in the area, economic opportunities will continue to multiply especially due to consistent foreign attention and investment in its development.

DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF FATA

The development needs of FATA can be divided into four main sectors, (International Monetary Fund, 2010) which are firstly; the human development sectors (Health, Education, Water Supply and Sanitation), secondly the natural resources based sectors (Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries), thirdly the communication sectors (Roads, Power and irrigation), and lastly the economic development sectors (Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mining and Tourism). Each will be discussed separately in succeeding parts.

Human Development Sectors

Health

Health indicators for FATA point towards inadequate health care system. The cases of infant mortality are as high as "87 deaths per 1,000 live births" (FATA Development Authority, 2016), while mother's mortality is expected to surpass 600 deaths per 100,000 births. Opportunity to Medicare is inadequate, due to acute shortage of hospitals.

Education

Prior to 2001, the amount spent on education was less than 1.5 billion rupees, which was increased to 2.7 billion rupees during FY 2004-05. However, additional 1.08 billion rupees are estimated for achieving the primary education. Literacy rate of FATA is around 17.42 %, while female share is about 3% (FATA Literacy Plan, 2015).

Water Supply and Sanitation

As per the available records, 56% population has access to water supply schemes. Some 85% of schemes are dependent on underground water, while others use surface sources. The normal water table varies between 300 feet to 500 feet. Mostly the surface projects use gradient to carry water to designated places.

Natural Resource Based Sectors

Most of the population in FATA relies on livestock and agriculture. Whereas some proportion rely on business and trading. General trend of travelling to other parts of Pakistan or abroad in search of work is also quite common here (FATA Development Authority, 2008). Some of the key sectors of FATA's economy are as under:

Agriculture

Mostly, the population is dependent on agriculture on small lands. Unfortunately, only around 7% of FATA is cultivated due to host of factors like terrain and inadequate resources to name a few. The production yield in per acre is lowest as compared to rest of the country.

Livestock and Poultry

These are main constituents of the countryside economy in FATA. Fish farming is also popular at small scale on wastelands.

Trade and Commerce

Trade and Commerce embrace as the chief source of livelihood, assumingly next to farming. In olden times and especially during 1980s, the area was the hub for opium production and its sale at a fairly large scale.

Industry

Industry is by and large privately owned, therefore, exists at small scale mostly in mineral extraction using obsolete technology. There is general tendency to join security forces or unskilled labor jobs or travel abroad specially in the gulf in search of job opportunities.

Forests

Forests are playing an important role for generating the local economy. However, these are also rapidly depleting due to illegal timber removal and meeting the need of fire wood.

Communication and Infrastructure Sectors

Water and Irrigation

Water shortage in FATA is aggravated due to lack of rains witnessed since last many years thus depleting the water bases. Most of the lands are irrigated through small water channels.

Roads and Bridges

As per the available data, total coverage of black top roads is 3390 kilometers and

approximately 2,000 kilometers of shingle roads.

Economic Development Sectors

Industry

Industrial activity is usually limited to small, owner-financed unit. As per data of the board of industries, 1,082 units are currently functioning in private sector. Out of which 120 are situated in Bajaur Agency, 200 function in Darra Adam Khel (FR Kohat), 237 in the remaining FR Kohat, 28 in Kurram, 207 are located in Khyber, 31 in North Waziristan, 16 in South Waziristan, 130 in Mohmand, 24 in Orakzai and 89 in other FRs. These include textile, stone processing, firearms manufacturing and some dispersed mills producing ghee etc. (FATA Development Authority, 2016). However, due to ongoing security operations and varying degree of stability in different agencies, the exact operational capability at this point in time could not be ascertained.

Mining

As per the data of mines and minerals directorate, marble extracting presently provides jobs to an estimated 2,000 persons, (FATA Development Authority, 2014). Substantial reserves of high value white marble exist at Ziarat in Mohmand Agency. Grey marble is discovered in Bajaur and other beautiful colours have been acknowledged in all agencies. In North Waziristan, 35 million tons of copper have been discovered. Substantial coal deposits have been identified at Kurram, Darra Adam Khel in FR Kohat, North Waziristan and Orakzai. Gemstones are found in Bajaur and South Waziristan with enormous potentials of adding to local economy.

COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (POLITICAL MAINSTREAMING OF FATA)

Options Available for Integration of FATA into National Mainstream

Option 1 – Progressive and Political Merger

This implies a steady and gradual integration of FATA into KPK by the instruments of political changes and sustainable developmental strategy. Analysis of this option reveal that based on natural and logical flow of actions, which have to take their due course, this appears to be an ideal solution in the existing environment. No shock action or sudden changes are involved as it entails a moderate and steady transition. Tribal masses will be fully involved as the process will be orchestrated in harmony with the demands of the population of FATA. Process can be conveniently initiated by the present government; however, the process will be time consuming and spread over an extended period of time of approximately one decade or more. The proposed policy of gradual transitions

warrants its adoption by all successive governments as a national priority. But seeing our political culture and past history, where generally contradictory policies are adopted by succeeding government, the process doesn't appear to be sustainable, yet promising in the evolving strategic milieu.

Option 2 – Creation of a New Province

This will involve amalgamation of FATA and FRs, thereby creating a new province as part of overall structural reforms. The analysis of this option reveal that the locals will have their own government and complete freedom of action in running their own affairs in the province with inherent flexibility of minimizing the anticipated difficulties associated with the merger option. It is visualized that such a move may be considered as politically sensitive and difficult to get acceptability as in the current political dispensation, the issue of new provinces is gaining currency and despite being a popular voice, yet not considered as an agenda item for any political leverage for better governance. Concentration of powers in the hands of tribal people will enhance legitimacy of governance and incorporate every segment of FATA society for their due role towards development of province and the country as promised by the constitution of Pakistan. However, it is perceived to be a long drawn process involving hectic consultations, therefore, its actualization in short to medium term appears to be a difficult proposition.

Option 3 – Piecemeal Merger in Adjacent Districts

This will entail complete absorption of FATA with contiguous districts in bits and pieces. Analysis of this option reveal that the security problems of FATA may be addressed in short term but this option is least likely to be accepted by the people of FATA as it will diminish their identity and warrants fulfilling certain legal formalities like the constitutional amendments. Consensus building among wider Pakistani society and across the political spectrum also appears to be a big challenge, therefore, does not sound to be a viable option.

Recommended Option-Option 1

From the analysis of above discussed options, option 1 of a gradual and progressive merger appears to be the most practicable which can be absorbed by majority of Pakistani society and accepted by the people of FATA.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The common recommendations for the development of FATA to bring these at par with other areas of Pakistan are:

Growth Plan

The federal Government should assign funds and offer soft loans to FATA organizations and individuals, on the basis of nominal markup. The public and private sectors should also be stimulated to facilitate the tribal organizations in developing income generating economic schemes.

National Finance Commission (NFC) Awards

This should be reassigned on the basis of population as well as development needs of each province. For bringing FATA into the national mainstream, it is essential that NFC Awards should be announced separately with enhanced allocation. Additionally, both domestic and foreign donor agencies should be mobilized for undertaking developmental projects catering for infrastructure development and creation of job opportunities. Special Public Sector Development Projects (PSDP) be allocated for at-least 5 to 10 years catering for sustained developmental activities in FATA.

Financial Supervision

A system of clear financial administration and supervision should be developed with participation of masses and other relevant stakeholders. The responsibilities of Auditor General (AG) should be extended to FATA and appropriate audit of all the departments should be carried out.

Trade Sector

The New Silk Route and projects like One Belt One Road and Central Asia -South Asia (CASA 1000) provide enormous opportunities to Pakistan, which should be aptly capitalized for our benefit, and eventually the benefit for development and prosperity of FATA.

Agriculture Sector

Agriculture sector promises enormous opportunities for economic growth. Some important aspects which merit attention are; adopting the “pocket area approach” to accentuate the production of relevant crops in specific regions. It is also worth mentioning to improve water distribution system by adopting efficient water technologies, construction of water channels, small check dams and reservoirs. Efficient use of bio-pesticides is also suggested for better plant protection and enhanced productivity. Lastly, the processing and packing services should be considered for packing of fresh, dry fruits and vegetables for long distance transportation.

Forestry Sector

The potentials of forestry segment should be explored for value addition in the economic growth of the area. Strong media campaign should be launched for preservation of

forests. It is strongly recommended that plantation of new trees every year by providing abundant free saplings should be encouraged. Strict control over timber smuggling should be ensured.

Live Stock Sector

Certain noteworthy aspects suggested are; animal health services and increasing the number of female livestock extension workers. Provision and ensuring the availability of feed and fodder in substantial quantity for meeting the requirements of the area. Another important aspect is improving the livestock reproduction through breed enhancement. It is also suggested to boost and support the expansion of livestock and poultry based industry including the establishment of animal hospitals and artificial reproduction centers. For substantial public participation, it is recommended that soft loans on affordable markup rate should be provided for construction of food processing facilities for canning of meat and other related industrial requirements.

Minerals Sector

FATA offers enormous potentials of exploring mineral deposits. For enhancing the production level in this sector, few recommendations are proffered for consideration. First of all, the legal framework governing the mining activities to include leasing, dispute resolution system and effective monitoring mechanism needs to be instituted. Secondly, for increasing the production of extracting minerals, it is suggested that modern technologies for exploration including foreign experts be considered. For whole hearted participation and acceptability of locals, it is emphasized to encourage public-private partnerships and maintain a healthy workforce by improving safety standards and emergency response capabilities.

Industrial Sector

Public and private partnership is recommended to be encouraged for rapid growth of this sector. Some of the suggested areas are cement, decorative material like wood and marble products. Defense related industries like manufacturing of small arms and ammunition should also be encouraged where infrastructure is already existing, however, it should be instituted under effective monitoring mechanism. For optimum efficiency and output, there is dire need of on job training, therefore, it is suggested that training centers for mining, marble processing, footwear and light engineering should be established and suitably funded for organizing short-term courses. At the end of this course, successful candidates should be awarded diploma or any other suitable certificate by university which should be accepted as valid document for potential job seekers outside their agencies.

Infrastructure Growth

Inter-agency connectivity is the backbone of any developmental plan for FATA. It is strongly felt that already existing tracks should be converted into good quality roads. Main roads especially from Tank to Wana and Bannu to Miran Shah should be converted into Highway for expeditiously moving the products to other parts of KPK and rest of the country. It is also suggested that construction of new roads in remote areas should be considered for generating economic opportunities and improving the overall security.

Private Sector Involvement

The private sector has to play a pivotal role in realizing the targets of economic development of FATA. It is suggested that the government should mobilize and encourage public-private partnerships for synergetic response.

CONCLUSION

Since the independence of Pakistan, FATA has generally remained out of sight of policy makers for developmental activities. Despite several promises and slogans, FATA even today is the most underdeveloped and poorest of all the regions of Pakistan. Despite having enormous economic potentials, hardworking, loyal and dedicated population with strong tribal bonds and enduring culture, their strengths could not be harnessed for wider national integration and development. This paper is an attempt to suggest development strategy which can be helpful to the policy makers in step by step approach towards development and mainstreaming of FATA for eventual benefit of FATA, KPK Province and the entire country.

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