

PAKISTAN FLOODS FACT SHEET

as at 26th August, 2010

Pakistan's worst floods on record have killed more than 1500 people and affected more than 20 million. The UN says that six million are in need of shelter and up to eight million in need of urgent humanitarian aid. Plan's emergency response experience from the 2005 earthquake and the 2007 conflict that displaced millions of people has ensured we have strong relationships with partner organisations on the ground, well-trained staff, and a commitment to long-term recovery.

THE EMERGENCY

Since the end of July 2010, Pakistan has been experiencing the worst flooding the country has seen in 80 years. A combination of excessive monsoonal rains and environmental degradation has resulted in a swathe of destruction through the centre of Pakistan via the Indus River valley from the North-West to the South.

With six million people now homeless, there is an urgent need for international support. The UN says this is a disaster larger in scale than the 2005 Indian Ocean tsunami or the 2010 Haiti earthquake combined.

At Plan, we are focusing our response in the Sindh and Punjab Provinces in the central area of Pakistan. Both provinces have been severely affected with clean drinking water, food, protection and related health and hygiene support programs of critical importance.

THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Whenever there are large numbers of people displaced, children are among those that are most at risk. Children are at an increased risk of abuse, violence, trafficking and their rights are often overlooked. The distress they are subjected to is often not addressed or is underestimated and, if neglected, can lead to longer-term problems.

To date, Plan has already identified and is assisting child-headed households displaced by the floods. We will continue to raise awareness of child protection issues through our staff, volunteers and parents in the displaced person camps through training, posters, and orientation sessions.

Plan is using funding provided by AusAID to implement a Child Protection in Emergencies program across 100 displaced person sites. This will support boys, girls and their families to engage in structured learning, receive information about health, hygiene and other protection issues - including separation and trafficking - along with creating opportunities for these children play and behave as children again despite the distressing nature of the situation.

Clean water is also an urgent priority for children, with the UN reporting that 3.5 million children are at risk of water-borne diseases – a figure that could significantly increase. There has been a dramatic increase in the incidence of cholera, diarrhoea, typhoid, heat stroke and skin diseases. Plan is providing clean water, water purification tablets with instructions, water pumps and containers to minimise the impact of water-borne disease. However, urgent measures are still needed to address the needs of the millions of children whose lives are still at risk from lack of clean water.



Families evacuate from their homes to escape the flood waters

COUNTRY FACTS

Capital: Islamabad

Population: 176 million

Income: Estimated 70% of the population lives on less than \$2 a day

Life expectancy: 63.4

Literacy: 49.9%

Development: Pakistan ranks 141 out of 182 countries on the Human Development Index

Main industry: Agriculture makes up to 24% of Pakistan's GDP

CORE THEMATIC AREAS

- Food Distributions
- Shelter and Household Kits
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Child Protection
- Displaced Person Camp Management
- Health
- Education
- Early Recovery
- Disaster Risk Reduction

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PLAN'S RESPONSE:

Plan has been working with local communities in Pakistan for many years through partnerships with grassroots organisations. Our partners are well established and are able to manage identification of, and distributions to, the most vulnerable within the displaced populations – including children and female-headed households.

Plan and our partners have been formally requested to manage more than 430 displaced person camps across Southern Punjab and Sindh Provinces and we are currently directly supporting more than 250,000 of the most vulnerable displaced populations. We continue to increase the scale of our response daily in order to support the growing numbers of displaced as this disaster continues to unfold.

CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED IN THE CAMPS INCLUDE:

- Inadequate number of toilets leading to deteriorating health and hygiene
- Lack of appropriate shelter space for women and children in camp buildings
- Health and Hygiene kits with items for new born babies and mothers required
- Lack of adequate protection measures, recreational and learning activities for children

RELIEF THAT IS STILL NEEDED

HEALTH

The health and hygiene need is reaching critical levels, with women and children a priority. Plan is distributing hygiene kits in six districts of Punjab and Sindh. These contain disinfectant, detergent, women's sanitary products, nail cutters, toothbrush and toothpaste and a washing bowl.

An outbreak of acute diarrhea has already been reported. Widespread cholera is also another grave fear and Plan is working through health camps, distributing fresh bottled water, as well as running health and hygiene education to prevent these situations getting worse. Additionally, Plan is also providing water purification tablets – with instructions - to help prevent further outbreaks of water-borne diseases.

FOOD SECURITY

Families have lost what little assets they had including crops and livestock. Southern Punjab is known as the "bread basket of Pakistan", and the destruction of crops will have an impact not just on the immediate population, but on the whole of Pakistan, with serious implications for ongoing food security.

The World Food Programme estimates that six million people will be in need of food aid over the coming months. There are also reports that food prices are rising sharply as agriculture has been wiped out. Plan is distributing cooked food to displaced persons, as well as dry food ration packs for families.

Once the waters have receded Plan will look to work with our partners to implement early recovery programs focused on food security including animal vaccinations and seed distributions.

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FACTS ABOUT THE DISASTER

- Worst floods in 80 years
- More than 20 million affected
- 1.2 million homes have been destroyed and 6 million are in urgent need of shelter
- 8 million in need of urgent humanitarian aid
- More than 7 million livestock and 3.6 million hectares of crops have been lost

FACTS ABOUT OUR RESPONSE

- Plan has been responding across six districts in the Provinces of Sindh and Southern Punjab
- We have reached more than 250,000 of the most vulnerable children and their families
- Supplies we are sending: bottled water, health and hygiene kits, shelter kits and food stock/rations.

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT CAN PROVIDE

- **\$20:** Enough water purification tablets to purify 40 litres of water for families and children.
- **\$30:** A food ration pack for 12 days for a family of 7.
- **\$50:** Urgent hygiene kits and mosquito nets to treat and prevent illness.
- **\$95:** Shelter kits including tarpaulins, pegs, ground mats for a displaced family.
- **\$580:** The rehabilitation of latrines & water pumps in displaced person camps to help ensure improved sanitation and fresh water.

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