

This report was issued by UNOCHA Pakistan. It covers the period from 23 to 25 August. The next report will be issued on or around 27 August.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Significantly scaled up assistance in Sindh and Punjab continues to be required; WASH, health, shelter and food interventions remain the key priorities.
- New areas in Sindh have been inundated in recent days as floodwaters move through the south of the province.
- With a growing risk of outbreaks of waterborne disease, close coordination between health and WASH clusters is of increasing importance.
- The logistics cluster continues to scale up its capacity to support in-country movement of relief items; reaching populations cut off by floodwaters, landslides and damaged infrastructure is an overarching challenge and additional airlift capacity is required.
- The Pakistan Initial Floods Emergency Response Plan (PIFERP) is now 60% covered. A revised version of the plan, taking into account the large increase in numbers in need of assistance, is due to be launched during the third week of September.

II. Situation Overview

Latest government figures indicate that the number of people directly affected by the floods remains at 17.2 million, spread across an area that stretches from the Chinese border to the mouth of the Indus River. The death toll has risen slightly to 1,542, with 2,327 confirmed as injured. A total of 1.2 million houses have either been damaged or destroyed (all figures from provincial and national disaster management authorities).

Further towns and villages in Qamber Shahdadkot district in Sindh were inundated on 24 August. Satellite imagery from 23 August showed rising floodwaters advancing to within 1.3 km of the Shahdadkot town, which continues to be under direct threat of flooding. Large numbers of people are still stranded by floodwaters in Jaffarabad and Nasirabad districts in Balochistan, where rescue efforts are ongoing. Authorities in Jaffarabad report that the death toll in the district has risen to 50.

The flood wave continues to pass through Kotri barrage in southern Sindh, and several low-lying areas of Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Dadu and Thatta districts are reported to be under water. Large-scale migration has taken place from these areas to safer places, including Karachi. The Meteorological Department reported on 25 August that the flood level at Kotri would remain "exceptionally high" for the next 24 hours, with further flooding expected in surrounding areas. With an estimated 800,000 people in Sindh now in relief camps and spontaneous settlements, the provincial authorities have asked UNHCR for support by activating the camp coordination and camp management cluster.

As efforts to scale up the response in Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan gather pace, the threat of outbreaks of water borne disease in the worst-affected areas continues to grow. On 24 August the Government announced establishment of a national committee to intensify and streamline the overall health response.

Monsoon currents from weak to moderate intensity continue to move across central and upper parts of the country. Isolated rain and thundershowers are expected over Punjab over the next 24 to 48 hours. Scattered rain is also forecast over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Gilgit-Baltistan, with isolated heavy falls over the latter. Mainly hot and humid weather is likely over Sindh and Balochistan (Pakistan Meteorological Department).

UNDSS advises all humanitarian staff to be aware of security risks in affected areas, including those directly related to the floods, such as violent demonstrations and aid-related crime. Further security information is available from UNDSS directly (contact details below).

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Agriculture

Needs: The Ministry of Livestock and Dairy Development estimates that 1.2 million large animals and 6 million poultry have been lost across the country. At least 3.6 million hectares of standing crops have so far been damaged or lost. Loss of draught animal power and seeds as well as damage to agricultural land and infrastructure has crippled farmers' production capacity for the next planting seasons (September/October). Silt deposited on fields, in places deeper than can be ploughed, could make it difficult to clear fields in time for sowing crops next month. It is estimated that 500,000 metric tons of wheat seeds stored at the household level have been destroyed. If farming inputs are not provided in time for the key wheat-planting season, the impact on agricultural livelihoods and household food security could be catastrophic, last well into 2012, and entail a longer requirement for food assistance. Across the country, there are increasing reports of distress sales of valuable assets, especially in Sindh, in order to meet transportation costs of people. FAO has planned for provision of approximately 190,000 households with wheat seed, vegetable seed and fertilizers for the September/October planting season, many of whom are in severely flood affected districts.

Response: Rapid agriculture sector damage assessments are currently being undertaken in several provinces, including Balochistan, to get a clearer picture of preliminary livestock losses and surviving livestock needs.

Gaps and Constraints: Given the extensive damage to the means of agricultural production – land, inputs, infrastructure and livestock – the cluster's funding requirements will be significant in the revised Pakistan Floods Emergency Response Plan.

Education

Needs: A total of 2,863 schools have been affected in 11 districts of Punjab. This number is expected to rise in coming days as the more areas become accessible for damage assessment teams, especially in the districts of Rajanpur and Muzaffargarh. The cost of building a government primary school is PKR2.5 million (US\$29,000 approx.) whereas it is estimated that the rehabilitation cost per school will be around PKR1.25 million (US\$14,500 approx.). The total number of schools damaged in KPK stands at 825. The number of schools being used as shelters in KPK has decreased from 842 to 797 as some families return to their homes. Overall needs in the education sector include text books, establishment of temporary schools, provision of water in damaged schools, repair of schools occupied by IDPs, provision of furniture in damaged schools and various teaching materials.

Response: In Punjab, the cluster is collaborating with the government on a planned welcome-to-school initiative. A first education cluster meeting in Multan will take place on 26 August. Save the Children has been appointed cluster focal point for Multan. Also in Punjab, 40 learning spaces have been established in R.Y. Khan district. In Sindh, cluster meetings are now taking place in Karachi and Sukkur. 23 new temporary learning and recreation sites have been established in relief camps in Sukkur, Khairpur and Shikarpur districts benefitting more than 4,500 children. In Balochistan, the cluster is conducting a rapid education assessment in all affected districts. Save the Children is already present in Balochistan and has the capacity to scale up the operations for the flood response.

Gaps and Constraints: The cluster is working with the government and partners to ensure that education interventions are appropriately prioritised, but at this point immediate life-saving interventions are the focus of most stakeholders. Due to limited resources and access, needs assessment for the educational sector has begun only recently.

Food

Needs: Results of food needs assessment across 11 districts of Punjab have now been confirmed and place the number of flood-affected people in need of food assistance in this province at 3.4 million. Tentative indications from the assessment completed in Sindh on 22 August suggest that almost 500,000 homes have been destroyed or severely damaged, with significant crop damage observed in more than 70% of surveyed districts. As floodwaters continue to move to southern areas of Sindh, causing further damage, it is likely that the number of people in need of food assistance across this province will rise.

Response: The cluster is now providing monthly relief food rations to flood-affected communities in 34 districts of KPK, Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and AJK, supported by almost 30 NGO cooperating partners. By 24 August, almost 1.9 million beneficiaries have been provided with more than 22,300 metric tons of food. Since 23 August, distributions have commenced in the additional districts of Mianwali and Khushab in Punjab, and Musakhel and Kohlu in Balochistan. Planned August distributions have now been completed in Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda, Nowshera and Swat districts of KPK. In areas that remain inaccessible by road in Sindh – including Jacobabad and eastern Kashmore – nutritionally-fortified high-energy biscuits are now being delivered by airdrop, an effort that has reached almost 50,000 beneficiaries in these districts since 21 August.

Gaps and Constraints: Physical access continues to pose a significant hurdle to the scaling up of food assistance activities across the country and additional air transport capacity is urgently needed to ensure that isolated areas – especially in Pakistan Administered Kashmir (PAK) and Gilgit-Baltistan – are reached. In PAK's Haveli district, the pace of distributions has increased, and up to 400 additional families are now being reached each day. However, in the severely-affected Neelum valley, distributions have yet to commence, though two cooperating partners are now on the ground and ready to begin the provision of assistance once food reaches the district. Additional funding is urgently required, in order to ensure that sufficient food can be purchased and pre-positioned in target locations, to allow for the implementation of planned assistance for up to 6 million beneficiaries in September.

Health

Needs: Key needs at this point are ensuring access to health services, sustained supplies of medicines, vaccination against various communicable diseases (in particular for women and children under five) and restoration of public health facilities (almost 400 of which have been damaged or destroyed).

Response: Health cluster partners treated 3.2 million people between 29 July and 23 August. The cluster has distributed medicines to treat 2.6 million people during the past two weeks alone, including 100,000 people suffering from diarrhea. 21 diarrheal disease centres (DTCs) are operating in priority districts of KPK, Punjab and Sindh, using USAID/OFDA funding. The cluster plans to establish a total of 69 DTCs in 47 priority districts. Additional WHO epidemiologists, water and sanitation engineers and malaria specialists have been deployed to affected districts. The Government on 24 August announced establishment of a national committee to intensify and streamline the overall health response. Goals include improved information flow and disease surveillance and enhanced coordination and monitoring of medical supplies and staff. Since its 20 August launch, the Ministry of Health's national "Health Volunteer Programme" has registered 840 volunteer doctors, nurses, public health professionals and paramedics. Volunteers will form 4-person teams and work for 15 days in affected communities. UNFPA has now provided emergency reproductive health medicines to cover 510,000 people for one month, women's hygiene kits for 3,300 families and 1,800 newborn kits in 14 districts of KPK, Sindh and Punjab. A UNICEF-supported measles campaign is underway in Swat, Charsadda and Peshwar. So far over 205,000 children have been vaccinated against polio, 185,000 have been vaccinated against measles, and 184,801 have received vitamin-A supplementation.

Gaps and Constraints: Additional funding is required to scale up life-saving health interventions in affected areas. UNFPA has reported challenges in recruiting adequate numbers of female health care providers (especially gynecologists) in flood-affected districts.

Logistics

Response: On 23 August the Logistics Cluster coordinated the delivery of relief items to three new air corridors expanding the helicopter airlift operations in KPK, Punjab and Sindh provinces. Relief items were delivered from Ghazi to Pattan in Kohistan district (KPK); from Multan to Tonsa Sharif in D.G. Khan district

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(Punjab); and from Sukkur to Qamber and Shahdadkot in QamberShahdadkot district (Sindh). A map of current and proposed air operations is regularly updated and available on the Logistics Cluster website: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/pak09a/wfp-aviation-operation>.

In Besham, in Kohistan district, the cluster is establishing a mobile storage unit (MSU) for storage of relief items from cluster participants. In Multan the cluster is storing NFIs from IOM and has made arrangements for additional storage capacity with the use of an FAO warehouse for cluster participants. A Logistics Response Team (LRT) cluster officer arrived in Islamabad on 25 August. Additional staff will arrive in the coming days to further augment capacity in the logistics hubs.

Gaps and Constraints: The principle logistical constraints in Pakistan continue to be access to populations cut off by floodwaters and landslides as well as damage to critical road and bridge infrastructure. As a result there is an major requirement for air assets inside the country in order to reach areas inaccessible by other means.

Nutrition

Needs: Given the clear risk of malnutrition across affected areas, the cluster is targeting 1,080,000 children from 6 to 35 months and 960,000 pregnant and lactating women with rapid nutrition assistance. There is also a need to establish community-level acute malnutrition programmes in affected areas. Promotion of breastfeeding and prevention of donations of infant milk are additional priorities.

Response: In Punjab, 21,000 pregnant and lactating women have received high energy biscuits in addition to key messages on infant feeding and hygiene in relief camps in eight affected districts. In KPK, 5,300 children and 2,800 pregnant and lactating women have been reached with supplementary food rations. 9,900 children from 6 to 24 months and 2,175 pregnant and lactating women have been provided with micro-nutrient sprinkles and tablets respectively. 3,538 children have been de-wormed. 398 children in Jaffarabad and Nasirabad districts in Balochistan have received emergency food rations.

Gaps and Constraints: Current funding allows the cluster to reach approximately 375,000 children from 6 to 35 months and 80,000 pregnant and lactating women with rapid nutrition assistance. Additional funds are needed to allow the cluster to establish community and facility-based management of acute malnutrition programmes in affected districts. Availability of supplementary and therapeutic supplies in-country is limited. Inaccessibility of severely affected areas continues to restrict the ability of the cluster to reach the most vulnerable. There is a need for additional personnel with experience of providing nutrition interventions in emergencies.

Protection

Needs: The key concern is the lack of access to assistance for large numbers of people. Given the scale of the emergency, there is not enough aid for everyone. Better targeting is needed to ensure that the most vulnerable receive assistance first. Similarly, there is a need to strike a better balance between the need for fast distribution and orderly mechanisms that ensure that women, the elderly, the sick and injured, and other vulnerable groups are reached. Many agencies are now carrying out targeted assessments, and have put in place mechanisms for orderly distributions, but more tangible steps are needed. Special arrangements for the vulnerable at distribution sites are required, as is improved outreach into villages, spontaneous settlements and areas of origin, as well as the formal displacement sites. The child protection sub-cluster reports that additional NFIs need to be provided on an immediate basis for children and their families. Additional child friendly spaces are also needed. Identification, registration and reunification of unaccompanied and missing children need to be enhanced. Help-lines are required in the worst affected districts of Punjab and Sindh. Information must be disseminated on protection of children from risks associated with dislodged unexploded ordinance, family separation, child recruitment, gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse. Other key concerns being identified during field assessments include loss of documents and land demarcation issues. The protection cluster will work with the authorities to address these issues in the days and weeks ahead.

Response: UNHCR and cluster partners are working on clarifying the issue of registration, coordination of ongoing and planned assessments and the revision of the PIFERP. Key advocacy messages are being developed for use in all clusters as it relates to key protection concerns. 3W (Who? What? Where?) information is being collected in affected provinces to map capacities. Child protection sub-clusters are up and running in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, KPK and Pakistan Administered Kashmir (PAK). Child protection assessments are ongoing. Child protection messages are under development. 24-hour help-lines are

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operating in Peshawar, Mardan and Swabi (KPK) and Karachi (Sindh), providing counseling and referral services to children in women. 86 child friendly spaces are operating in KPK, Punjab, Balochistan and PAK, providing 11,000 with educational and recreational activities. Over 10,000 children and 900 women have been provided with psycho-social support. Out of 156 unaccompanied and separated children identified, 131 have been reunified with their families.

Gaps and Constraints: Funding shortages and mapping of capacities on the ground are overarching gaps/challenges. In terms of child protection, there are an insufficient number of partners trained in child protection in emergencies in affected districts. Lack of resources means that child friendly spaces have yet to be established in Sindh province.

Shelter and NFIs

Needs: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) now reports that 1,226,678 houses have been damaged or destroyed, with the highest numbers being reported in Punjab (500,000) and in Sindh (462,251). A clear breakdown of destroyed, partially damaged and lightly damaged houses is also needed to ensure that emergency shelter assistance is appropriately targeted and coordinated. Affected populations have been requesting housing assessments and compensation. Regionally appropriate shelter solutions for the transitional phase need to be considered.

Response: To date over 115,500 tents and 77,000 tarpaulins have been distributed by the cluster, representing over 153,800 households served. Cluster members have also distributed 2,123 tool kits, 241,400 blankets, 54,000 kitchen sets and 83,800 units of bedding/mats. 114,700 tents and 521,000 tarpaulins are in the pipeline, which will be sufficient for over 375,000 households. Distributions in Sindh and Punjab are increasing, and more of the cluster's pipeline is being allocated to these provinces. Daily updates on distributions to date, coverage, projected coverage and outstanding gaps are available on the shelter cluster website: www.shelterpakistan.org. Provincial-level Technical Working Group meetings are being planned in order to provide technical guidelines for regionally-appropriate shelter solutions for returnees during the transitional phase.

Gaps: Despite some progress, shelter coverage remains very low in both Sindh and Punjab due to the growing numbers in need in these provinces. Emergency shelter coverage in each is just 2% and 4% respectively. However further information on the breakdown between lightly damaged, partially damaged, and destroyed is needed to accurately determine the extent of the need, and therefore the gap. Some delays in distribution is occurring as components of NFI kits arrive separately and agencies wait to complete kits prior to distribution; local procurement is encouraged where possible. Several local organizations with distribution capacity are requesting agencies with more resources to provide both emergency shelter materials and NFIs. Further information is available through the cluster coordinator.

WASH

Needs: While there continues to be a need for a complete package of WASH assistance across affected areas, immediate priorities at this point are ensuring the provision of safe drinking water and distributing soaps, in particular in Sindh and Punjab which continue to be underserved.

Response: The cluster has so far been able to ensure provision of drinking water to an estimated 2.1 million people, through provision of tankered water (700,000 individuals) and repair of tube wells (1.4 million individuals) in affected areas. The cluster has initiated assessments covering both relief and recovery needs across affected areas through Provincial Public Health Engineering Departments, Tehsil Municipal Administrations and WASH cluster partners. So far three water filtration plants have been installed in Charsadda and Nowshera in KPK. Each covers 10,000 people. An additional seven plants have been dispatched to Sindh and Punjab and are expected to be operational in the coming days.

Gaps and Constraints: Large numbers are yet to be reached with WASH assistance across all affected areas; coverage is particularly low at this point in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. Supplies of items including aquatabs, buckets and soap continue to be urgently required for blanket distribution among affected populations.

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IV. Coordination

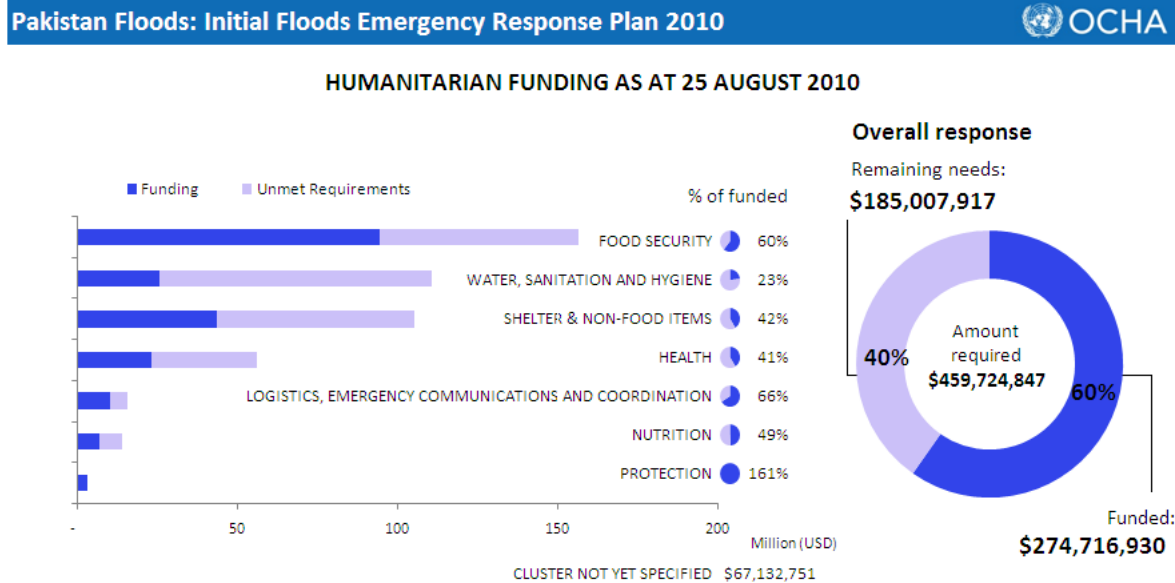
The next General Coordination Meeting (GCM) in Islamabad will be held in the Humanitarian Coordination Centre (HCCs) in the Serena Hotel on Friday 27 August at 10:00. Outside Islamabad, HCCs continue to operate in Peshawar (covering KPK), Multan (covering Punjab) and Sukkur (covering Sindh). Contact details of coordination focal points in each hub are below. The need for establishment of an additional coordination hub in lower Sindh is being considered. Coordination in Balochistan province is being led by UNHCR. Further information on coordination is available on the response website: <http://www.pakresponse.info/>

A second United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team arrived in Pakistan on 25 August to strengthen humanitarian coordination capacity at the federal and provincial levels.

For details on visas on arrival for humanitarian workers, tax/duty free import of relief goods and obtaining No Objection Certificates for operations in flood-affected areas, please contact Nicki Bennett in OCHA Pakistan. For details on security clearance for travel to restricted areas (which include all 7 FATA agencies, several flood-affected districts of Balochistan and D.G. Khan district in Punjab) please contact Alexander Hasenstab in OCHA Pakistan (contact details below).

V. Funding

According to figures reported to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS), as of 25 August, 60% of funding requirements set out in the Pakistan Initial Floods Emergency Response Plan (PIFERP) have been covered (US\$274.7 million out of total requirements of US\$459.7 million):



A fully revised version of the PIFERP will be launched during the third week of September, taking into account updated assessment results from all affected areas and addressing relief as well as early recovery needs. Current PIFERP projects can now be viewed, alongside detailed information on funds committed and pledged, on the FTS website, at:

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/fts.nsf/doc105?OpenForm&rc=3&emid=FL-2010-000141-PAK>

For further details on how to contribute to the PIFERP or the Emergency Response Fund for Pakistan, please contact Susan le Roux in OCHA Pakistan (details below).

Details of the Concern/USAID/OFDA RAPID Fund for NGOs is available at:

http://www.concern-pak.org.pk/Rapid_Main.htm

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