

PAKISTAN FLOODS

IMMEDIATE NEEDS FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN



10 July 2007

UNICEF urgently requires US\$ 5,000,000 for emergency response

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY

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CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

It is estimated that about 1.5 million people have been affected by the floods provoked by four days of heavy rains after cyclone Yemyin hit in the provinces of Balochistan and Sindh in the south of Pakistan on the 23rd of June. Many areas still remained cut off by rising water. More than 100,000 people are reported to have lost their homes, and about 300 are reported dead with many still missing.

Three out of four people affected by the floods are children and women. At least 300,000 of the affected children are under five years old and are particularly at risk of infectious diseases, epidemics and poor nutritional status. Some of these children have lost their homes and are exposed to extremely high temperatures. They also have limited access to clean water.

The areas worst hit in Balochistan and Sindh are also among Pakistan's most disadvantaged, which makes children and women there particularly vulnerable to natural disasters. One out of ten infants dies in Balochistan before completing his/her first year of age. Forty per cent of children under five are underweight. Maternal mortality is twice the country's average at 600 deaths of women per 100,000 live births. Indicators for children in northern Sindh, in the districts worst affected by the floods, are similar.

UNICEF is concerned that children will particularly suffer from lack of access to food, safe water and medicine given the disruptions caused by the floods in half of the districts of Balochistan province and in western districts of the neighbouring Sindh province. UNICEF is coordinating with provincial and federal authorities, other UN agencies and partners to ensure that the particular needs of children in this emergency are addressed appropriately.

Separated or unaccompanied children, including orphans, are at increased risk of trafficking, exploitation and abuse. Girls and children of female-headed households also suffer from discrimination and experience more difficulties in accessing basic humanitarian services.

With floods causing damage to roads and bridges, access to the worst-affected areas in the south and east of Balochistan has only been possible with military helicopters and planes. More than 260 roads and 5,800 kilometres of roads have been badly damaged. Water damage has also affected electricity –endangering the safe storage of vaccines and immunization outreach- and gas supply.

The floods have totally or partially destroyed water distribution systems resulting in limited or no access to clean water. Poor hygiene and sanitary conditions are causing waterborne diseases, dehydration and infection.

Hospitals and health clinics are closed or only partially functional. Essential drugs are not being delivered to health facilities which have become over-stretched. Before the floods, only half of children in Balochistan received routine immunization, and almost 43 per cent of children under five suffered from acute respiratory infections.

Schools in the affected areas have been closed or have been operating irregularly. Before the floods, only 28 per cent of boys and 20 per cent of girls were enrolled in primary school. Many classrooms and water and sanitation facilities of schools have been damaged.

The UN system in Pakistan is organizing for the first time ever an inter-cluster joint assessment to better determine population numbers and assistance needs.

UNICEF'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE: ACTION AND IMPACT

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In collaboration with partners and the authorities, UNICEF will assess the damage to the water and sanitation infrastructure to determine what longer-term actions may be necessary. UNICEF will work to strengthen the capacity of local partners and Government authorities to restore water and sanitation services.

UNICEF is also working to provide water purification tablets, jerry cans and water tanks; distribute hygiene materials, including soap, buckets and educational materials containing hygiene messages in local languages; and establishment of latrines and water points as necessary.

Health and Nutrition

Given that child malnutrition is a particular concern in the flood-affected districts, UNICEF is focusing on programmes to address the needs of children that are underweight and has been sending Unimix to the worst-affected areas in coordination with WFP. UNICEF will also support the establishment of supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres.

UNICEF is focusing on supporting rural clinics and public hospitals to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable in flood-affected areas have access to critical health services. In conjunction with WHO, UNICEF will also provide vaccines and emergency cold chain support in order to ensure that vaccination activities can continue.

Education

To ensure access to primary education, UNICEF and partners are preparing to assess the damage to the educational infrastructure and will provide essential school supplies to the affected areas.

UNICEF with partners is preparing to provide psychosocial and trauma-reduction training support to the primary teachers and students in the flood-affected areas.

UNICEF is planning to establish 75 temporary/transitional shelters to fully damaged schools that can also function as child-friendly learning spaces where children can take part in structured activities.

Child Protection

In collaboration with authorities and NGO, UNICEF will conduct a rapid assessments on child protection and on female-headed households, register separated, unaccompanied and other vulnerable children and simultaneously trace and reunited children with their families or make suitable and temporary alternative arrangement for unaccompanied children in order to prevent trafficking and other forms of exploitation

UNICEF will ensure that vulnerable children and women, (including the disabled, single women, those with serious medical conditions, the elderly) and their families have priority access to the distribution of basic relief services such as food, safe drinking water, shelter, latrines, first aid, health services and government compensation/grant packages. This would include the provision of supplies especially for vulnerable children and their families such as clothing, sandals, blankets and tarp.

Furthermore, UNICEF provide psycho-social assistance and support to out-of-school girls and boys by organizing them into groups and setting up routines for them through the establishment of child-friendly learning spaces in emerging camps. There will be preference for transitional shelters

IMPACT

- Sufficient clean water and appropriate sanitation as well as hygiene material are available to children and families affected by the floods.
- The delivery of basic medical equipment and supplies helps reduce child morbidity and maternal mortality.
- The incidence of measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases is kept low, and basic health and nutrition services are strengthened.
- Primary school-age children have basic school supplies and access to schooling, including temporary school structures where needed, which help retain a sense of normalcy in their lives.
- Unaccompanied and separated girls and boys identified and reunited with their families and alternative and transitional care provided to orphans.
- Children and teachers are provided with psychosocial support and helped in healing the distress and shock.
- Local protective mechanisms are reinforced to assist orphaned children, children who have been separated from their families and female headed households.
- A sense of normalcy is injected to children's lives by providing them with recreational and learning materials as well as psychosocial support in child friendly spaces.

ESTIMATED FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR PLANNED ACTION (JULY TO OCTOBER 2007)

This is an initial estimate of the immediate funding requirements. UNICEF is also participating in the consolidated flash appeal prepared by the UN system. The following table includes the cost of items sent to date; initial interventions already planned with partners.

Sector	US\$
Health	\$ 750,000
Nutrition	\$ 150,000
Education	\$ 750,000
Water and Environmental Sanitation	\$ 2,000,000
Child Protection	\$ 600,000
Logistics	\$ 200,000
Cross-sectoral activities	\$ 250,000
Coordination	\$ 300,000
Total*	\$ 5,000,000

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

Further details of the Pakistan emergency programme can be obtained from:

Martin Mogwanja UNICEF Representative Pakistan Tel: +92 209 7710 Fax: + 92 209 7799 mmogwanja@unicef.org	Terje Thodesen Head of Emergency Pakistan Tel: +92 209 7790 Fax: + 92 209 7799 tthodesen@unicef.org	Esther Vigneau UNICEF EMOPS Geneva Tel: + 41 22 909 5612 Fax: + 41 22 909 5902 evigneau@unicef.org	Gary Stahl UNICEF PFO New York Tel: + 1-212 326 7009 Fax: + 1-212 326 7165 gstahl@unicef.org
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