

UNICEF Pakistan Update

2011 Floods: Needs and Response

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS



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A grandmother takes care of her grandchild in a relief camp for flood affected people.

The population displaced by the 2011 floods is beginning to return to their home areas, as the floodwaters recede. According to the National Disaster Management Authority, at present, 494,011 people are now residing in 1,636 temporary settlements and makeshift camps.

Conditions in areas of return are dismal; an on-going multi-sector needs assessment will soon provide quantitative information on the situation in the areas of return. Whether families return to their destroyed homes, or alternatively stay in the temporary settlements over the next weeks and months, children are in need of increased support with the onset of the cold season.

Reports of high levels of malnutrition are being received from the flood affected areas, compounding an already dire nutrition situation in Sindh. This is demonstrated in the results of the 2011 National Nutrition Survey which documented a general acute malnutrition rate of 17.5 per cent (well above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent) and severe acute malnutrition rate of 6.6 per cent in Sindh prior to the 2011 floods. Frequent interruptions in infant feeding practices due to displacement, the poor hygienic/sanitation environment and limited access to health facilities are further increasing the vulnerability of survival of the acutely malnourished children, leaving them vulnerable to common infections. As OCHA reports, the general occurrence of water borne diseases (including acute watery diarrhoea), vector borne diseases (including dengue and malaria) and acute respiratory infections is increasing in districts severely affected by the floods. Funding constraints is hampering the necessary relief efforts needed to address these challenges facing flood affected children.

20 October 2011

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Sindh:

- 5.4 million people affected, thereof over two million children, according to UN estimates.
- 1.8 million people were displaced by the floods, of which approximately 495,000 are now residing in temporary settlements across Sindh.
- Families are slowly beginning to return to their homes only to find their house and vital community infrastructure damaged or destroyed.
- In Sindh, out of a 2.5 million target population for water, sanitation and hygiene, 906,000 persons in temporary settlements are in critical need of life-saving assistance in terms of drinking water, sanitation facilities and items such as water buckets and jerry cans.

Balochistan:

- 400,000 people affected and 26,138 houses destroyed across ten districts.

UNICEF RESPONSE

UNICEF and partners are now reaching thousands of families with life-saving assistance but require additional resources in order to deliver at scale.

Health

- UNICEF is supporting the delivery of maternal, newborn and child health services in seven priority districts: 23,165 women have received antenatal care; 5,501 women have received postnatal care; 19,840 women have received information on health issues, breast feeding and nutrition; and 6,788 women were given advice on family planning.
- A Mother and Child Health Week campaign was held on 7–16 October 2011, including immunization, de-worming, Vitamin A supplementation, health education and the distribution of insecticide-treated bednets and water purification tablets to families of young children. UNICEF supported the mobilization of 5,000 Lady Health Workers in their outreach activities during the campaign.
- To date, UNICEF has supported the vaccination of 328,282 children against measles and 438,518 children against polio.

Nutrition

- A total of 38 Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Programmes have been established in five severely affected districts providing nutrition services. The new sites are in addition to the 454 operational sites established throughout Sindh in response to the 2010 flood disaster.
- Due to nutrition screening and referrals during the Mother and Child Health Week, the number of children enrolled in therapeutic feeding centres has increased significantly. To date, 3,657 severely malnourished children and 7,996 moderately malnourished children have been registered for Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Programmes and Supplementary Feeding Programmes (SFP) respectively, while 2,851 pregnant and lactating women were registered for SFP.

- 13,873 flood affected women have participated in information sessions on infant and young child feeding.



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A severely malnourished baby is screened for malnutrition in a UNICEF-supported mobile nutrition clinic at a roadside camp in Tando Bago, Badin district.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- 384,236 people are now being provided with safe drinking water daily, an addition of 91,108 people over the past week. As the displaced population returns to damaged infrastructure and homes, UNICEF is prioritizing household water treatment options to ensure availability of safe drinking water for returning children and their families. A total of 274,084 people are reached through water tankering in eight districts and 110,152 people are reached through household water treatment options. In Balochistan, UNICEF delivers daily water supplies to 15,000 people.
- 88,112 people have access to temporary latrines. In order to reach the targets set for sanitation, a significant scale up is required.
- 48,448 family hygiene kits were distributed last week. To date, a total of 58,653 families have received hygiene kits (including soap, toothpaste, cleaning materials, towels, sanitary napkins and mugs to last a family for three months). In addition, 107,457 persons have received jerry cans and buckets.
- 50,246 people, an increase of 29,697 people in the last week, have been reached through hygiene sessions.



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Using UNICEF buckets and jerry cans, children fetch safe drinking water from a UNICEF water bladder in a tent camp in Tando Bago, Badin district.

Education

- Some 300 UNICEF-supported temporary learning centres are now being established per week in the flood affected areas. To date, UNICEF has reached 66,331 children (43 per cent girls and 57 per cent boys) through 1,225 temporary learning centres. This accounts for 97 per cent of the total achieved through the Education Working Group.
- 40 per cent of the children enrolled in the temporary learning centres are attending school for the first time in their life; reaching as high as 63 per cent in Sanghar and 58 per cent in Umerkot.
- 953 teachers (68 per cent male and 32 per cent female) have been trained on classroom management, usage of UNICEF school kits, psychosocial support and hygiene education at the temporary learning centres.

Child Protection

- 2,100 children (924 girls and 1,176 boys), an increase of 906 children in the past week, are accessing psychosocial, recreation and learning activities at 52 Protective Learning and Community Emergency Service (PLaCES) centres in three heavily affected districts. A total of 28 new PLaCES were established over the last week. The PLaCES also offer hygiene education sessions and discussions on early marriage for women and adolescent girls.

- A three-week mass communication radio campaign on child protection has commenced covering a flood affected area inhabited by almost 7.5 million people. The campaign aims to sensitize flood affected people on issues such as separated children; abuse and exploitation; community-based psycho-social support for children; and risk awareness of landmines/unexploded ordnance.

Funding

As part of the Pakistan Rapid Response Plan for the 2011 Floods, UNICEF requires US\$50.3 million from the international community to cover the immediate needs of children and women for six months. To date, US\$ 8.8 million have been received and a funding gap of 82.5 per cent remains. The funding level continues to be a serious constraint to meeting the urgent needs of the children and women of southern Pakistan. Without further funding, vital activities will need to be scaled down after the month of October.

UNICEF wishes to thank all the donors that have provided support to the life-saving humanitarian activities in the flood affected areas. We remain available for any additional information whether on the impact of UNICEF's work or the immediate priorities going forward.

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