

Floods in Pakistan

Situation Overview

Sindh

The flood situation in the southern province of Sindh is still precarious. According to reports, another 150,000 people were forced to leave their homes in Sukkar on the weekend when the swollen Indus River flooded dozens of more towns and villages in Thatta District. Another warning has been issued for the city of Shahdadkot, where floodwaters are gushing out of breaches in the Tori and Begari Canals threatening to submerge parts of the town with a population of 400,000 people.

According to our field officer in Sukkar, more than 1,800 settlements have sprung up in 23 districts in Sindh, accommodating almost 700,000 people. Most people are staying in school or college buildings, in spontaneous settlements or in a few camps that have been set up by the government. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has asked UNHCR to help support one organised camp for around 1,000 families in each district. The government estimates that over 87,000 houses are completely destroyed while 315,000 houses are partially damaged in Sindh only.

A joint mission conducted by UNHCR and OCHA has found that approximately 80 percent of the area around Jacobabad in Sindh is under about three to five feet of water. The water is currently flowing towards the airport from where it is moving west towards neighbouring Balochistan. Most of the population has left the city, but there are still 10,000 to 15,000 people left, who are trying to protect their properties. The most affected districts are Shikarpur, Khairpor and Sukkur followed by Kashmor, Ghotki, Larkana and Dadu.

According to government estimates, around 3.6 million people have been left without a home in

Sindh, and this number is expected to rise with the floodwaters continuing to move further south.



Eighty percent of Jacobabad is still under water (UNDAC)

Balochistan

In Balochistan, thousands of people took shelter on rooftops and high ground after a high flood tide entered Gandhaka area of Jaffarabad district. The high flood in the river Mola posed a threat to Jhal Magsi and Gandahwa areas. This is the almost the fourth week for Balochistan to be threatened by the floods as the province was the first one to be hit on 21 July. The government has set up five camps for flood victims in the province, which are in Quetta, Sibi, Dera Hurad Jamali, Dhader and Noutal and are all managed by the government.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK)

Even though the water has started to recede slowly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), assessing the situation still remains a challenge due to inaccessibility to many areas.

According to the latest PDMA report, 68,000 houses have been damaged and 107,000 houses have been completely destroyed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Punjab

A UNHCR mission to Punjab found that most villages in the Tehsils of Mianwali and Isa Khel have been badly damaged. Many of the houses show deep cracks and these buildings are likely to get more damaged if the rain continues. There is also a worry that they would not be able to withstand small earthquakes, which this region is very prone to.

The mission recommends that the population of Mianwali should be trained in retrofitting their houses in order to strengthen the foundation. UNHCR stands ready to help with retrofitting the communities' homes.



Many houses in Mianwali district have been badly damaged by the rain (UNHCR)

According to PDMA, over 4.3 million people are without a home in KPK. In Balochistan, where UNHCR is coordinating aid efforts, this number stands at one million, including the 600,000 people who fled the floods in neighbouring Sindh. The number of people, who have been made homeless in Sindh, stands at 3.6 million.

Latest figures suggest that 16.8 million people, eight of which are children, are affected by the floods. In total, around six million people are estimated to be in direct need of humanitarian assistance.

Response and Needs Assessment

Shelter

To date, UNHCR has dispatched relief items for distribution to 338,542 people. Based on this, 273,726 people in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh have so far received a tent, an NFI kit or both, depending on their vulnerability.

Until now, 18,886 tents, 136272 blankets, 45424 quilts, 24812 kitchen sets, 53224 mosquito nets, 34 MT soap, 49424 jerry cans, 46424 plastic buckets, 94848 sleeping mats, 78824 plastic sheets have been distributed in Sindh, Balochistan and KPK.

There are a total of seven distribution hubs in the flood-affected areas. Five distribution points are in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Nowshera, Peshawar, Charsadda, Swat and DI Khan), one in Sindh (Sukkar) and one in Punjab (Multan).

In Sindh, UNHCR staff together with its implementing partner SHARP has been directly engaged in the distribution of tents and Non-Food Items. So far, 1,527 NFI kits have been delivered to the flood victims in Sindh, and the distribution of 2,500 NFI kits and 1,000 tents is ongoing.

Protection

The Protection Cluster is now operating at national levels in Balochistan and KPK. By next week, all affected provinces should have a Protection Cluster to set priorities, identify resources, improve coordination and advocacy, and establish protection monitoring teams and also a reporting mechanism.

As the majority of the households have lost their sources of livelihood, the Protection Cluster in KPK is designing short-term quick impact projects with community based non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The goal is to help IDPs earn some cash to restart their lives.

UNHCR partner RIPORE is opening a welfare centre in Charsadda District, which will provide counseling to the flood-affected population and guide them on how to access aid. Other locations are being identified.

Protection Cluster members are starting a Rapid Protection Assessment in KPK. Under UNHCR's lead, the assessment will be conducted by both UNHCR partners as well as local community based NGOs. There are reports that some minorities, including ethnic and religious groups, are being denied access to aid. UNHCR has alerted protection partners to keep a close watch for discriminatory activities.

Afghan Refugee Villages(RV)

There are 81 Afghan refugee villages across Pakistan, 10 of which are in Balochistan, one in Punjab and 70 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Of the remaining 1.7 million Afghan refugees still living in Pakistan, 1.5 million live in flood-affected areas, mainly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where more than 12,000 dwellings have been destroyed.

Since the flooding destroyed Azakhel, 235 Afghan families (1,233 individuals) have voluntarily repatriated from the refugee village to Afghanistan.

In Punjab, a UNHCR mission conducted an assessment of damages and current needs at the Kot Chandna Afghan refugee village in Mianwali District. The damages in the refugee village were incurred due to the heavy rains. Fifty-two houses were fully damaged while 250 houses were partially damaged.

So far UNHCR has distributed 2,583 tents, 15,498 blankets, 5,155 quilts, 2,483 kitchen sets, 5,166 mosquito nets, 3.8 MT of soap, 5,166 jerry cans, 5,166 buckets, 10,332 sleeping mats and 4,482 plastic sheets in the Afghan refugee villages.

Gaps and Constraints

The joint UNHCR/OCHA mission to Jacobabad has shown that robberies and theft is becoming an increasing problem in the flood-affected areas.

The majority of the male population of Jacobabad has opted to stay in the city and are reluctant to move. More plastic sheets are needed to support the people on their on-site locations.

As the situation is still unfolding in Sindh Province, the response is not yet proportionate to the size of the catastrophe. A well-coordinated and prompt response is needed.

Damaged houses are in need of retrofitting to be able to sustain the continuous rain or other natural disasters, such as earthquakes.

Funding

The agency has established a tentative budget of around USD \$41 million to address the emergency needs of the flood-affected population as well as replenish the stock damaged by the floods. However, this amount is currently under revision due to the agency's expanding role in the flood response in order to better cater for the immense needs of the flood-affected population in Pakistan.

Donations

If you wish to make a donation for the flood victims you can visit <http://www.unhcr.org/donate> or use the following bank account details:

UNHCR Special a/c

Account number: 08-7316410-02

Swift Code: SCBLPKXX

Bank: STANDARD CHARTERED BANK (PAK) LTD

Branch Address: F-7 MARKAZ BRANCH , PLOT # 19-A, F-7 MARKAZ, Islamabad (Pakistan)

