

Alert

Pakistan – No. 17/2010

CYCLONE PHET

Geneva, 9 June 2010

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMERGENCY

ACT Member **Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan (CWS – P/A)** reports that since landfall of Cyclone Phet on Sunday 6 June, Balochistan Province has suffered the most damage, particularly Gwadar District with its 600 kilometres of coastline. Some areas, including Gwadar City, remain accessible only by air or sea. Extensive flooding has forced residents to relocate to safer areas, including camps.

According to an initial assessment carried out by **CWS – P/A**, an estimated half a million people are affected, and at least forty-five villages in Gwadar are completely destroyed. Contaminated flood waters pose health hazards to the affected population. Aside from homes, people lost belongings and are in need of blankets and clothing.

Gwadar District is bound on the north by the districts of Kech and Awaran, on the east by Awaran and Lasbela, on the south by the Arabian Sea, and the west by Iran. Thousands of people remain homeless after the torrential rains and flooding damaged or completely destroyed houses along the coastal area. Media reports that the administration is striving to pump water out of the low-lying areas. According to initial estimates, at least 5,000 houses were washed away and at least 200,000 individuals are seriously affected.

Fishing is a main source of livelihood in the affected region. Five fishing launches and at least sixty others anchored in the harbour were badly damaged which will affect the livelihood of fishermen.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

The government and local NGOs continue to assess the affected areas in Balochistan. Primary needs identified are safe drinking water, shelter, food, plastic sheeting and pumps to siphon water from flooded homes. ECHO, OFDA, and UN agencies await a request from government authorities.

The WASH cluster has been activated and a coordination meeting has already taken place to ascertain how participants could meet the needs, particularly of safe drinking water, of the affected population.

ACT ALLIANCE RESPONSE

CWS – P/A, in close coordination with partners, DCO Gwadar, the Provincial Disaster Management Agency (PDMA), and other agencies, continue to assess the situation in Gwadar District. On 8 June the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) visited Balochistan in order to identify needs and to coordinate with the PDMA. Upon the conclusion of this visit, which is expected to be the 9 June, the NDMA will advise donor agencies on what assistance is needed. Depending upon the findings of the NDMA, an ACT Appeal may be forthcoming.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to Jessie Kgoroadira, ACT Chief Finance Officer (jkg@actalliance.org).

Thank you for your attention.

For further information please contact:

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