

# Alert

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## Pakistan

# Flooding in Sindh Province

Geneva, 13 September 2011

### 1. Brief description of the emergency

Heavy monsoon rains over the last month have caused widespread damage, mostly in the southern province of Sindh. The National Disaster Management Authority has appealed for international humanitarian assistance nearly a month after monsoon rains started devastating parts of Sindh Province. The humanitarian community including UN agencies, international and non-governmental organizations (I/NGOs), and local organizations have initiated a coordinated effort to ensure timely response. Needs assessments are underway to determine the scale and scope of relief operations. However, needs have been apparent for weeks and food, potable water, shelter, and health care are the most urgently needed to save lives that are greatly at risk to waterborne diseases, malnutrition, and food insecurity. Many inundated areas remain inaccessible thus posing an increased threat to the affected population.

### 2. Impact

Approximately 5 million people are affected in the province, with more than half of the affected population residing in Khairpur and Badin districts. Twenty-two out of 23 districts are affected. Approximately, 700,000 homes have been damaged and more than 1.7 million acres of crops are affected. The death toll is approaching 200.

Of the total affected population, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) confirmed that 131,410 people are residing in 1,484 camps as of 5 September 2011. The majority of the population is without access to shelter, food, medicines, and clean drinking water. The pre-flood economic situation of affected communities worsens their chances of meeting their basic needs. Agriculture and livestock provide the majority of income in the province. With these widely destroyed, families are without economic resources and income earning opportunities to purchase food. Inadequate access to health facilities adds to the concerns for waterborne diseases and nutrition deficiency. The current situation also adds to food and drinking water shortages already prevalent in rural Sindh.

### **3. National and international response**

The United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) held a meeting on 9 September 2011 with more than 200 nongovernmental organisations in order to brief them about the registration process for gathering data and damage assessment. UNICEF will be responsible for water and sanitation; WHO will deal with health; IOM will cover shelter; WFP and WAO will look after food security. International organizations and other nongovernmental organizations have a week to ten days to submit assessment reports.

### **4. ACT Alliance response**

ACT Forum Response: of the ACT forum members in Pakistan (Church World Service, Pakistan/Afghanistan - CWS-P/A, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe – DKH, ICCO and Kerk in Actie, Christian Aid - CA and Norwegian Church Aid – NCA), CWS P/A is the only member currently initiating an ACT response.

CWS-P/A is in close contact with its staff and local partners in the affected areas. It has been closely monitoring the situation and the arising needs since August 2011. CWS-P/A remains actively involved in coordination efforts at the national and local levels, including the aforementioned UN meeting and another which was held on 9 September.

CWS-P/A has already dispatched relief items such as shelter kits and food packages to its warehouse in Thatta that would be distributed among the flood affected families of Thatta and Badin from 13 September onwards. CWS-P/A plans to carry out its emergency response in four flood affected districts: Badin, Thatta, Umerkot and Mirpurkhas. Currently, it aims to provide food, non-food items, emergency shelter (tents), and mobile health services in all four districts based on the needs identified in the assessments received from the field.

CWS-P/A is currently preparing a preliminary appeal.

NCA has launched a preliminary emergency response through a field partner in Hyderabad and will initially provide emergency support for 2,000 families in Mirpurkhas and Badin through this partner.

DKH is currently not planning to carry out activities in Sindh. However, should the situation deteriorate significantly, DKH will respond to the call for assistance.

ICCO and Kerk in Actie (I & K) have been active, through their partners, in the current flood affected areas of Sindh and immediately made available Euros 200,000 for emergency interventions. I & K are currently distributing food and non-food items including bottled drinking water and free medical aid provisions in the worst affected districts of Sindh i.e. Badin, Thatta and Mirpurkhas.

Christian Aid is also active in Sindh through its partners, and is currently gearing up towards a housing early recovery response for the families in Thatta affected by the 2010 floods. CA has been supporting affected families in Sindh with food, non-food items and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) since the beginning of the 2010 floods.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to Jean-Daniel Birmele, ACT Chief Finance Officer ([Jean\\_Daniel.Birmele@actalliance.org](mailto:Jean_Daniel.Birmele@actalliance.org)).**

Thank you for your attention.

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