



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
Pakistan / Afghanistan

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Situation Update

“Expected Disaster Prevents IDPs from Returning Home”

July 16, 2010

Prepared by CWS-P/A Communication Office

Background:

The situation for the displaced families from the Attabad Lake area remains unchanged. Uncertainty as to how long they will remain displaced causes greater concern. From day to day the water level changes as does the volume of inflow and outflow. As of July 15, the outflow from Ganish Bridge is 17,425 cusecs. The water level dropped four inches in the twenty-four hours prior to this measurement. The drastic increase in water volume and flow since reported last month directly relates to the summer season’s glacier melting and monsoon rains.

The government and military continue to provide relief goods transportation by helicopter and boat services. The government remains reluctant to announce a return date fearing that individuals will start returning before the area is safe.

Attention on planning for rehabilitation once the IDPs are able to return home is underway by the government and humanitarian organizations. Depending on how long the people remain displaced and on the scope of damage in the case of major flooding, the needs for assistance will vary.

CWS-P/A Response:

CWS-P/A completed its distribution for the families displaced in Kohistan District due to the expected flooding from Attabad Lake. A total of 1,025 food packages were distributed in 40 villages of 15 union councils of Kohistan District.

The government had conducted a survey of houses in red zones which were lying within approximately 180 feet from the riverbanks. CWS-P/A selected beneficiaries from this list. Food packages were distributed at follows:

- 570 food packages in 18 villages across 5 union councils (Jijial, Pattan, Kyal, Bankad, and Dobair) in Pattan Tehsil
- 397 food packages in 18 villages across 9 union councils (Dasso, Kuz Paroa, Barsin, Kumaila, Thoi, Seo, Harban, Sazin, and Jalkot) in Dasso Tehsil
- 58 food packages in 4 villages in Batera Union Council in Pallas Tehsil

In Dasso Tehsil, distribution took place at the Frontier Corps ground. In both Pattan Tehsil and Pallas Tehsil, the distribution points were voluntarily provided by a community activist and NIDA Pakistan, a local organization, respectively.

CWS-P/A continues to monitor the situation and will identify potential local partners for the inevitable recovery needs expected in the aftermath of the anticipated disaster.

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