

Situation Report

Pakistan Floods – No. 01/2010

Balochistan in danger of neglect

August 2, 2010

CWS-P/A, Islamabad/ACT Secretariat, Geneva

In Balochistan, thousands of homeless people hit by flash floods since July 21 are still waiting to receive assistance. Entire villages in Sibi, Kohlu, and Barkhan are submerged and hundreds of houses are washed away. Government departments, media and humanitarian agencies are focusing on the northern provinces. Aid is insufficient in Balochistan, though the government has dispatched helicopters to deliver food, water, and medicines to otherwise inaccessible areas.

The worst floods on record have brought destruction to communities across five provinces of the country, including Balochistan as well as the Punjab, AJK and the north-west province of Khyber Paktunkwa. Sindh Province is also facing high alert flood warnings. In Khyber Paktunkwa, the death toll is reaching over 1000 and more than 400 deaths have been reported in the worst affected areas of Swat and Shangla alone. Tens of thousands of people have been marooned and uprooted. With water levels remaining high and communication systems severely damaged, the rescue of thousands of trapped people and the delivery of aid will lead to further loss of life.

The military has deployed 30,000 troops who have helped rescue more than 20,700 people but rescue workers are struggling to save more than 27,000 people still trapped by the water.

The monsoon season affects Pakistan between the months of June and September. Current weather predictions indicate that continued rainfall may worsen flooding in Pakistan as well as prolong and expand the emergency situation throughout the country.

ACT Alliance response

ACT members Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan, Norwegian Church Aid and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe are mobilizing and coordinating their responses as the ACT Pakistan Forum.

CWS-P/A is undertaking assessments and selecting beneficiaries for emergency assistance in Sibi in Balochistan Province, and Kohistan, D.I. Khan, Swat and Balakot-Mansehra in Khyber Paktunkwa Province.

Already, 250 food and temporary shelter kits have been distributed in Sibi, Balochistan Province, working with local partner Nation's Capacity Building Programme (NCBP). A further 750 kits are being dispatched to Sibi. A total of 250 food and shelter kits have been dispatched to D.I. Khan, Khyber Paktunkwa Province and distributions will begin tomorrow with local partner VEER Development Foundation.

CWS-P/A is also providing emergency health assistance through its mobile health unit in Balakot, and two further mobile health units to serve Kohistan and Swat are planned, dependent on funding.

In addition, with bi-lateral support from the Royal Netherlands Embassy, CWS-P/A has started identification of beneficiaries for shelter (plastic sheets) and other non-food relief items for flood-affected families in Allai Valley, Battagram District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

CWS-P/A is applying strict measures to ensure transparency and quality and accountability standards in its relief efforts. In addition to its own response to the floods, CWS is running 10 introductory workshops for other humanitarian organizations on the Sphere Minimum Standards in Disaster Relief and on ensuring the accountability to the assisted population (Humanitarian Accountability Project).

ACT Alliance Appeal

The ACT Secretariat has just received a preliminary appeal proposal from CWS-P/A for a 3-month crisis phase response to assist over 50,000 flood-affected persons in Balochistan and Khyber Paktunkwa Provinces with food, shelter, and medical assistance, requesting approximately US \$1.6 million. Further proposals from NCA and DKH are expected in the coming days. A Preliminary ACT Appeal will be issued within the next couple of days.

Pledges have already been received from DanChurchAid/Danida for material aid for the crisis phase response.

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

Thank you for your attention.

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