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Situation Update “Coping with Approaching Challenges”

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Prepared by CWS-P/A Communication Office

Background:

As many as 800,000 people were forced to sleep under the open skies during the Eid holiday this past weekend. As floodwaters have receded in the northern parts of the country, towns and villages in the southern provinces are still submerged. The scale of this humanitarian tragedy is far impacting and the larger challenges are yet to begin.

An estimated seven million people will be homeless for some time according to recent predictions. Immediate relief is still needed while the approaching winter season, particularly in the northern areas, causes great concern. Dr. Qamar Zaman, Church World Service-Pakistan/Afghanistan’s medical coordinator, worries about people having to cope with rising disease challenges. “Snow begins as early as October in parts of the north. Winter is approaching, and with freezing temperatures, there are a greater number of cases of lower respiratory tract infection.”

During the flood, CWS-P/A’s health team reported that acute respiratory infections were the second most common ailment after diarrhea. Insufficient nutrition and food shortages will put more people, especially children and elderly, at risk during the winter months. With close to 500,000 women expected to give birth within six months, proper facilities are required to provide mothers and newborns with well-equipped health services and protection from freezing temperatures.

Adequate shelter, blankets, warm clothes, and other winter items to help the affected population survive the harsh winter are immediately required. For millions of people, the transition from homelessness and joblessness to recovery will begin in the midst of the winter season. In addition to meeting special winter needs, early recovery initiatives are also required so families can start regaining independence through restoration of livelihood and development of earning opportunities.

CWS-P/A Response:

CWS-P/A’s food and non food item distribution is ongoing. To date, 8733 food packages (equal to 1222 tons) have been distributed. Completed and planned food distribution will reaches 91,200 people. Distribution of 2500 non food items has taken place. Completed and planned non food item distributions reach 75,500 people. CWS-P/A plans to provide an extra 3000 families with food and non-food items in

Sukkur and Thatta. It is planning early recovery assistance by meeting health and livelihood needs. CWS-P/A identifies three early recovery Construction Trade Training Centres, similar to the initiative developed for after the 2005 earthquake. Without resources, farmers and owners of small shops will face a longer period of food insecurity. Similar to its food security initiative for internally displaced people, CWS-P/A plans to initiate cash for work, voucher, and cash grants to help reestablish agricultural livelihood.

CWS-P/A continues its health efforts by providing preventive and curative treatment for flood affected families. Three mobile health units operate in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, providing services in Swat, Kohistan, and Mansehra districts. Two extra mobile health units are planned in Khairpur and Sukkur in Sindh province.

NCA Response:

NCA is coordinating with its implementing partners, PVDP and Taraqee Foundation by providing technical backstopping. PVDP has distributed food and non food items and hygiene kits to 50 families today. It will soon be starting its mobile health clinics. Taraqee Foundation's mobile health clinics have provided medical assistance and medicine to 2000 patients. Food and non food items to 200 families have been distributed. A delegation led by Norwegian politician Ingrid Fiskaa visited a field area in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in village Bodababa, Union Council Mohib Banda, in Nowshera district.

DKH Response:

Diakonie started relief activities within a few days of the floods. The field team started assistance immediately with clean drinking water in collaboration with local partner, NRSP, in Nowshera and Charsadda. DKH and NRSP teams continue working to provide water and debris cleaning despite continuing rain. DKH has installed 20 water tanks at 11 points in Nowsherra and Charsadda and debris cleaning activities have started in Pashtoon Ghari village of Nowsherra.

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