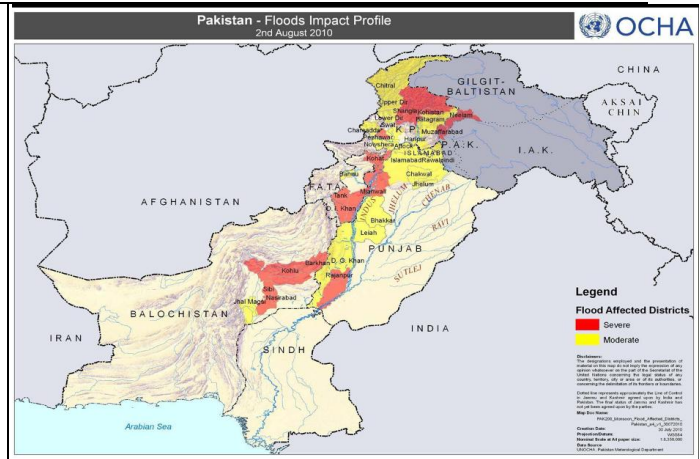


## Save the Children’s Emergency Response to Current Monsoon Flooding in Pakistan: A short report

### Key facts

- The UN estimates that over 3,000,000 people have been affected to date.
- The death toll from the flooding has now reached over 1,500 people<sup>1</sup>
- The initial damage assessment for relief and early recovery alone has been estimated at \$3.5 billion
- Families in over 30 districts have lost homes, livestock, crops, livelihoods and food supplies.
- Over 2000 schools have been damaged by the floods and several hundred schools have been converted into life saving shelters.



### The Pakistan monsoon floods emergency

Since July 21, several areas of Pakistan have been inundated with flash floods caused by the heaviest monsoon rains in living memory. Some of the worst affected areas, having received the highest recorded rainfall since 1929, are in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Province. Over 300 millimetres, or 11.8 inches, of rain has been recorded in KPK — the most ever in Pakistan.

The UN estimates that over 3,000,000 people have been affected to date. According to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), over 1.5 million people in KPK province alone have been severely affected. Families in over 30 districts have lost homes, livestock, crops, livelihoods and food supplies. The death toll from the flooding has now reached over 1,500 people.

Initial reports indicate enormous needs for children and families in all respects: food and clean drinking water supplies are limited and dwindling; large numbers of families are without shelter; hospitals and other medical facilities are damaged or destroyed, and health care personnel are struggling to provide even the most basic medical care to the vast numbers of displaced. To compound this situation, critical infrastructure such as bridges, roads, and communication systems have been destroyed, leaving hundreds of communities cut off from support and supplies. The threat of water-borne diseases and illness is rising. Children are at risk of family separation and exploitation in the chaos following the disaster, as well as psychosocial distress. Numerous schools are damaged or destroyed. In some areas, 70 – 80 percent of crops have been lost and these areas make up a large part of the bread basket of Pakistan.

<sup>1</sup> Save the Children SitRep No.4; August 3, 2010

## An overview of Save the Children's response in Pakistan to- date

Save the Children has been working in Pakistan for over 30 years, and is now one of the leading emergency response organizations in the country.

- In 10 days, Save the Children has reached over 18,300 people through emergency medical care and distribution of shelter, hygiene kits, and supplies.
- In Allai, after crossing the river Indus by hanging trolley, Save the Children medical teams began their journey to reach the remote area of Sakargah. After walking for five hours on extremely difficult tracks, Save the Children medical teams in Allai delivered medical aid to 1731 patients.
- In Swat, Save the Children's medical teams are continuing to provide primary health care services to flood affected communities in coordination with the district administration. Save the Children has already provided two ambulances to the Department of Health and these are operational throughout the district. Today, two mobile health clinics in Swat treated 545 patients including 327 women and 153 children under 5 years old.
- In D.I. Khan, many of the areas are flooded with water overflowing from the Indus river. Due to excessive flooding, Save the Children's seven health facilities cannot be reached. Consequently five mobile health units are in service. The mobile medical teams in DI Khan have treated 744 patients including 332 women and 142 children under 5 years old. The medical teams distributed 14 clean delivery kits, 48 children's hygiene kits and 14 insecticide-treated bed nets.
- In partnership with a local organization, Rural Development Organization (RDO), Save the Children has deployed two medical teams to the worst affected areas of Rajanpur district in southern Punjab. Save the Children has identified 10 stranded communities where medical aid is needed. A boat has been rented so that mobile teams can reach communities who have been cut off by the floods.
- The Health Department in Buner acknowledged Save the Children's emergency work in the district and requested that an ambulance service be provided in Chinglai. Save the Children medical teams treated 100 patients in Buner including 15 women and 35 children under the 5.
- Save the Children conducted a rapid assessment study of the flood affected areas of Dera Ismail Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The assessment illustrates that, of the total 53,930 HHs in 49 localities, 81% of households were significantly affected by the disaster. Hundreds of families are still living out in the open, as the monsoon rains continue. Food, shelter, cooking utensils, water storage containers, and women's and children's hygiene kits should be provided on a priority basis.

## Focus of Save the Children Canada's relief efforts

The focus of Save the Children Canada's current relief efforts in Pakistan is a project entitled "*Integrated Emergency Health Assistance for Children and Families Affected by Monsoon Floods in Remote areas of Swat, Pakistan*". The project will provide integrated primary health care services with a focus on emergency maternal, newborn and child health, to 40,000 severely affected families in hard to access/remote areas of Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan. It is expected that 40,000 flood-affected people in KPK Province, of whom approximately 16,000 are children and 12,400 are pregnant or lactating women will directly benefit from the project.

## Key activities

### Activity 1: Deploy 5 mobile health teams

Save the Children will deploy five mobile health teams in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and local Executive District Officer-Health (EDO-H). Save the Children will provide essential primary health coverage by supplying human resources (medical doctors, female health visitors, dispensers, and outreach workers cleaners/attendants) and medicines to accompany the distribution of essential emergency health kits (see Activity 3).

### Activity 2: Establish emergency referral system

Save the Children will establish a referral system in coordination with the local Department of Health, through which patients with obstetric, neonatal and medical complications requiring specialized care will be referred from the target areas to referral hospitals in the district/province by Save the Children's deployed ambulances. Save the Children will deploy three such ambulances<sup>2</sup> in the target areas and cover all associated logistics and maintenance costs, to ensure provision of free-of-cost services to the target beneficiaries. Save the Children estimates that at least 100 complicated cases will be referred during the project.

### Activity 3: Provide complementary health promotion and support to flood-affected families

Save the Children health teams will conduct weekly health education sessions about personal hygiene and prevention of water-borne and other communicable diseases, benefiting at least 4,000 flood-affected people in target areas. Save the Children will deploy 10 outreach health workers, to identify and register pregnant women, for provision of ante-natal care by Save the Children's mobile health teams and for referring at the time of delivery to the nearest functional health facility.

## Expected results

- 40,000 people will be able to access essential primary healthcare and emergency referral services through five mobile health teams
- 100 patients with medical/obstetric complications receive emergency referral to secondary/tertiary health facilities
- 4,000 families and 1000 pregnant women receive essential health information and materials, including mosquito nets, health and hygiene kits, clean delivery kits and newborn kits

---

<sup>2</sup> The ambulances will likely be hired boats for the first weeks of the immediate response