

Special Edition

NEWSLETTER

THE UK RESPONSE TO FLOODS IN PAKISTAN

Welcome to the newsletter of the Department for International Development - the government department leading the UK's fight against global poverty.

This newsletter provides the latest information on the flooding in Pakistan and the UK's support to those most in need. The situation is changing on a daily basis, this information was correct as of 03 September 2010.

'THE WORST COULD BE YET TO COME BUT WE WILL STAND BY PAKISTAN' UK MINISTERS SEE FLOOD DEVASTATION

The Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, Secretary of State for International Development Andrew Mitchell and Minister Without Portfolio Baroness Warsi have all recently travelled to Pakistan to see the effects of the devastation. DFID has been leading the UK Government's response to the worst Monsoon floods in the history of Pakistan.

Speaking from Sukkur, South Pakistan, the region now worst affected by the monsoon floods. Nick Clegg Deputy Prime Minister said:

"It's now one month since the monsoon floods started, and the disaster in Pakistan is getting worse.

"The coming days and weeks are critical; millions of people in Punjab and Sindh in the south of Pakistan have lost their homes and are facing hunger and illness unless they get vital help right now.

"That's why the UK will push out more emergency aid over the coming days in what is now the worst affected area of Pakistan, including safe drinking water, toilets, emergency shelter, water pumps, and other lifesaving items."

Targeted aid in Punjab and Sindh includes:

- 2,330 water pumps/points to provide safe drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people;
- 1,150 private bathing facilities, benefiting thousands of people particularly women;
- Emergency shelter kits for around 30,500 families – provide shelter for more than 152,000 people;
- Hygiene kits for about 75,000 families



Nick Clegg, Andrew Mitchell and Baroness Warsi during their recent visits to Pakistan. Credit: DFID

In addition to aid in Punjab and Sindh, UK aid has so far provided:

- 3,500 tents and shelter for 12,000 families
- 24,000 water containers and 50,000 blankets
- Safe drinking water (including 1.7 million water purification tablets), sanitation and hygiene for approximately 800,000 people via UNICEF
- 52,000 inhabitants with access to personal hygiene material through distribution of 6,100 hygiene kits
- To help repair Pakistan's infrastructure DFID has accelerated a £10 million project to provide new bridges to replace some of those washed away by the floods; ten bridges are already on a ship from the UK heading to Pakistan, and two more are being trucked up from Karachi to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

How can I get involved?

In the event of a major disaster like this, the easiest and most effective way to help is by giving money to a reputable charity. The UK public has already donated £42 million to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal.

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) is an association of NGOs (13 at present) who act collectively for fund-raising and publicity purposes and use DEC as their interlocutor with the media for broadcasting fund raising appeals.

Baroness Warsi commented on the contributions from the UK: "I'd like to thank the British public, who have donated £42 million to this cause, for their continued generosity. It is vital that the international community joins us in doing everything we can to relieve the suffering of the people of Pakistan."



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Or visit:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Where-we-work/Asia-South/Pakistan/?tab=0>



Four-year-old Zahid in Mardan:
Credit: Care International

A view from the ground

Zahid is only four years old. Coughing and a high fever exhausted him so much that he is sleeping, laid out on the wet, muddy floor. His chest is only slowly going up and down. It is 3:30 in the afternoon. His mother cries when she sees not only me, but also the others coming to her house. She has nothing left apart from her son. (edited content from the blog of CARE worker Thomas Shwarz:

<http://www.careinternational.org.uk/13633/feature-articles/pakistan-floods-blog-two.html>)

CARE is cooperating with local partners in Mardan like the Community Research and Development Organisation to tackle the problems people like Zahid and his mother are facing. So far CARE has reached approx 21,000 people in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Sindh provinces (12,000 health + 7,000 Non Food Items and Tents in KPK and about 2,000 in 10 camps in Sindh). They have also treated around 12,000 people in health centres in the Upper Swat Valley.

CARE International are members of the Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies, one of the mechanisms DFID is using to distribute UKaid in Pakistan.

Credit: HRDN –
a CARE partner
agency



LIFESAVING UK AID FOR DEVASTATED AREAS IN SOUTH PAKISTAN

The UK Government has committed £64 million to help people affected by the floods in Pakistan with £9 million of that going to Save the Children, Concern, and Oxfam to provide and distribute aid.

Andrew Mitchell said:

“The situation in south Pakistan is dire. That’s why we’re funding Save the Children, Oxfam, and Concern to get lifesaving aid to hundreds of thousands of people over the coming days to where it’s needed most urgently in Punjab and Sindh.”

The Secretary of State made clear UK support will only be released to implementing partners - such as NGOs and UN agencies - when we are confident it will help the people of Pakistan access desperately needed medicine, food, clean water and shelter. New funding will help people to rebuild their lives after the flooding, for example providing seeds to farmers so they can restart crop planting.

To find out the latest on the UK's response in Pakistan, visit <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2010/Floods-in-Pakistan/>

For more information on how you can help Pakistan visit: http://www.dec.org.uk/donate_now/

Or: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Getting-Involved/Disasters-and-emergencies/How-you-can-help/>

For more real time information on the floods visit the UN website: <http://www.pakresponse.info/>

