

# UNICEF Pakistan Update

## 2011 Floods: Needs and Response in Sindh and Balochistan

### HUMANITARIAN NEEDS



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Children listen during classes at a Temporary Learning Centre in Sanghar district.

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities continues to be a critical issue in the flood affected areas. Although significant progress has been made to address immediate water, sanitation and hygiene needs in the worst-affected districts, funding constraints have threatened the sustainability of programmes, and hygiene and sanitation conditions remain poor. No significant increase in the incidence of water-related diseases has been reported, nevertheless, the risk of disease outbreak remains a major concern in areas where basic sanitation facilities are lacking. Awareness of hygiene-related issues is also limited, posing an increased health risk as the temperature increases.

Over 96 per cent of floodwater has reportedly receded from affected areas. Some areas in the districts of Sanghar, Badin and Umerkot are, however, still experiencing floodwater inundation. Over 10,000 people are unable to return to their areas of origin due to the presence of standing water and flood related destruction.

Flood-affected areas in Sindh and Balochistan continue to face significant gaps in humanitarian assistance due to the lack of funding. As a result, many families who have returned to Mirkpurkhas, Tharparkar and Umerkot districts are living in temporary shelters in or near their villages and require on-going relief. Needs outlined in the Early Recovery Framework across all clusters remain unmet.

23 April 2012

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Pakistan 2011 Floods Early Recovery Framework was launched 21 February 2012, to cover a 9 month period starting from January to September 2012. The Early Recovery Framework provides the foundation and structure for the early recovery response supporting the flood-affected people of Sindh and Balochistan. The framework seeks US\$ 439.8 million to cover the continuation of the flood response.

Under the Early Recovery Framework, UNICEF continues to lead the WASH, Nutrition and Education (with Save the Children) Clusters and the Child Protection sub-Cluster.

#### Sindh:

- 4.8 million people affected, of which 2.4 million are children and 1.2 million women.
- 35% of the communities affected in 2011 were also affected in 2010.
- Open defecation increased by 11-17%, increasing exposure to disease.
- 410,697 children were pushed out of school because of damage to school facilities.

#### Balochistan:

- In Balochistan 0.3 million people were affected.

## UNICEF RESPONSE

UNICEF and partners have been implementing humanitarian and early recovery response since September 2011.

### Health

- UNICEF continues to support delivery of maternal, newborn and child health services and counselling through 19 health facilities providing around-the-clock services in priority districts in Sindh: to date, 55,902 women have been provided with antenatal care; 9,036 women have been provided with postnatal care; 7,124 deliveries have been assisted by skilled birth attendants; and 233,040 women have been vaccinated against tetanus.
- To date, 924,801 children have been vaccinated against polio, 761,600 children have received Vitamin A supplementation, and 639,600 children have been vaccinated against measles.
- The April Mother and Child Health Week Campaign has been postponed to 7-12 May due to delays in supply delivery.

### Nutrition

- UNICEF continues its outreach of life-saving nutrition services to children and pregnant and lactating women, with 18 new Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Programmes (OTP) established over the past month, bringing the total to 165 OTP sites. These OTPs, in addition to 140 nutrition sites operational since the 2010 flood response, provide life-saving nutrition services to flood affected children and women.
- UNICEF closed 10 OTPs in Balochistan over the past month due to funding constraints, despite high levels of malnutrition. More services will be cut in the next month if no further funding is made available.
- To date, out of 741,849 children screened, 31,577 children were enrolled in OTPs as severely malnourished and 74,285 children were enrolled into WFP-run Supplementary Feeding Programmes (SFP) as moderately malnourished. This is an additional 179,433 children screened and 12,099 malnourished children receiving nutrition services over the past month. Also, 43,315 malnourished pregnant and lactating women have to date been enrolled in SFP out of the 316,293 screened.

- 211,394 women have been reached with messages on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding, early initiation of breastfeeding after birth, and timely and age appropriate complementary foods for children, through information sessions on infant and young child feeding, an addition of 10,384 women reached over the past month.



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A woman fetches water from a UNICEF hand pump in a return village in Sindh.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNICEF has initiated a new sanitation project through the Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation in four priority districts, expected to benefit 240,000 flood affected people through creation of sanitation demand, behavioural change and low cost sanitation solutions.
- Water is currently being provided to 1,245,773 people, including 635,344 children, through household water treatment options and installation of hand pumps in Sindh. This is an addition of 226,446 people reached over the past month. UNICEF has increased the number of water supply schemes to restore/rehabilitate from 11 to 24, benefitting some 100,000 people.
- UNICEF and partners are providing safe drinking water through mobile filtration units to 2,500 families in Umerkot and 2,000 families in Sanghar still living along the roadsides and embankments.
- To date, 615 water tanks of 1,200 litres capacity have been installed for water storage in Temporary Learning Centres/Protective Spaces and communities, an addition of 114 water tanks over the past month. Community WASH

committees are responsible to fill up the tanks and ensure water quality.

- A total of 3,855 bathing cubicles are benefitting 433,226 people (thereof 220,945 women) in returnee areas and camps, an addition of 238 bathing cubicles installed in the past month.
- Hygiene sessions, including continuing follow up sessions, have to date reached 1.5 million people.
- In Balochistan, 58,000 people have benefitted from 2,300 water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and 15,000 people are benefitting from the restoration of 20 water supply schemes.
- 1,500,000 people have benefitted from the distribution of non-food items such as jerry cans, soap, buckets and hygiene kits.



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More than 6,000 Lady Health Workers regularly conduct health education sessions in the flood-affected districts.

## Education

- 30,803 children (44% girls and 56% boys) are currently enrolled in 603 UNICEF Temporary Learning Centres (TLC) in Sindh. Out of all the children reached by the Education Cluster, 98% are reached by UNICEF partners.
- Out of the 2,120 TLCs established since September 2011, over 1,500 TLCs have been incorporated into the government education system. Nearly 70,321 children (44% girls) have been mainstreamed within 1,517 government primary schools in 10 districts of Sindh. Of these, 40% were the first timers to schools via the TLCs.

- 3,542 teachers (28% female) have been trained on use of UNICEF school kits, psychosocial support and hygiene education.
- In Balochistan, 22 UNICEF Transitional School Structures have been handed over to the government.

## Child Protection

- 195,248 children (49% girls) and 77,068 women are currently engaged in psychosocial, recreation and learning activities (including vocational skill training and adult literacy) in 555 Protective, Learning and Community Emergency Services (PLACES). All efforts are made to mainstream children who are out of school in the formal education system.
- Eight Child Protection Committees were set up over the past month consisting of 64 members (including adolescent girls and boys). Over the past month, through community based referral mechanisms, 26 minority out-of-school girls were facilitated to get admission in school, and 31 children with disability, 22 cases of early marriage and 19 cases of children in exploitative labour were identified by Child Protection Committees and referred to services.

## Funding

As part of the recently launched Early Recovery Framework, UNICEF seeks US\$ 49.7 million to cover the early recovery needs of women and children until September 2012. To date, US\$ 3 million has been received against the Early Recovery Framework for nutrition interventions. In addition, as part of the Pakistan Rapid Response Plan for the 2011 Floods, UNICEF received US\$ 19.9 million for relief services.

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## Story from the field

### In post-flood Pakistan, temporary learning centres offer education amid uncertainty

By Raheela Chaudhry

March 2012 - On a lonely roadside in Naukot, Sindh Province, is a small collection of shabby huts. They are makeshift constructions, plastic sheets covered in cloth, barely large enough to accommodate an adult standing upright. But for 10-year-old Laxmi and her family, one of these huts is home. The 2011 monsoon floods destroyed the small mudhouse where her family lived. They were left with just a few personal belongings. Since that day, Laxmi, her parents and four siblings have lived in this hut.

#### An uncertain future

It is not a comfortable shelter. The sharp desert wind blows through the plastic sheeting, and Laxmi often wakes up to find herself covered in dust.

While most of those affected have gradually returned to their home communities, some, like Laxmi's family, are still displaced. Dozens of families in this informal settlement are in the same situation, either lacking the funds to return home or still waiting for the floodwaters to recede from their home communities.



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Laxmi and her younger brother in their makeshift tent in Naukot, Sindh.

#### An opportunity to learn

Under these difficult circumstances, Laxmi takes comfort in an exciting new opportunity. With UNICEF support, a Temporary Learning Centre (TLC), or emergency tent school, has been established in the camp. One of her brothers is a regular attendee, and Laxmi has started going as well. It is the first chance she has had to go to school, and it is opening up possibilities that were previously unimaginable.

"I want to learn more. When I grow up, I can start working like girls in the cities," she said. "Maybe I can become a teacher. But it is difficult. I have only just learnt my alphabet and counting."

With 60 per cent of schools in affected areas damaged, UNICEF has established 2,070 TLCs, benefiting over 100,000 children in Sindh and Balochistan. Intended to ensure that education is not interrupted, the TLCs have also attracted over 39,000 children to school for the first time, including 16,000 girls. As people head home, TLCs are being shifted from camps to areas of return, so children's schooling can continue. TLCs are also designed to promote proper hygiene and sanitation, helping prevent the disease of spreading in areas with stagnant water or lacking access to adequate sanitation. Water tanks have been installed to store safe drinking water in some 500 TLCs, benefitting over 45,000 children. Through various channels, UNICEF has also provided 1.5 million people with information on hygiene, sanitation and disease prevention.

#### More help is needed

Nevertheless, the Naukot encampment is short of vital support. Many returnees lack the means to reconstruct their homes, and are living in spontaneous settlements. Aid partners are working to provide further assistance, but additional funding is required to make Laxmi's dream come true.

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