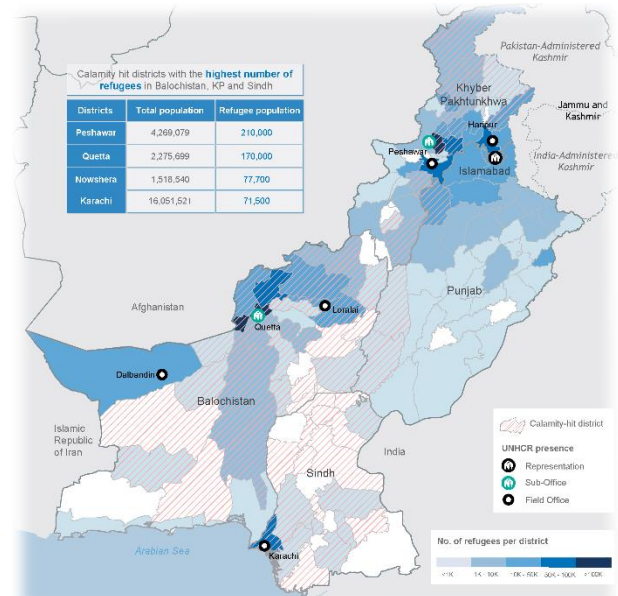


## UNHCR FLASH UPDATE ON PAKISTAN FLOODS

### Key Figures & Highlights

- Over 80 million people\* in Pakistan hit hard by torrential rains and deadly flooding
- Some 800,000 refugees affected with most residing in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces
- UNHCR is supporting the government-led response alongside other national and international partners across several sectors to respond to refugee and host community needs
- 1.2 million life-saving supplies for 50,000 households mobilized with some 55 per cent already delivered for distribution
- A joint flood response plan has been launched with an initial request for \$160 million targeting assistance to 5.2 million people.

\*according to authorities



### Background

Since mid-June, 80 million people in Pakistan have been affected by unprecedented rains and devastating floods across the country, leaving 6.4 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. More than 1,300 fatalities have been reported, over 950,000 houses either damaged or fully wrecked and 2 million acres of crops destroyed. Some 80 districts have been officially declared 'calamity hit' by authorities. Extreme and intense rainfall is expected to continue in September and October and threatens to exacerbate an already dire situation for marginalised and at-risk populations who are among the most vulnerable to climate change.

As part of UN-wide system efforts, UNHCR is supporting the government-led response to scale up humanitarian assistance to refugee and host communities affected by the monsoon rains. Since the beginning of the floods, UNHCR – as the protection sector lead – has been coordinating with other partners to mainstream protection in the humanitarian response. UNHCR is also engaged in the inter-sectoral coordination of the shelter, WASH, education, health, food and nutrition, and livelihoods response. The immediate priority is to provide assistance to the worst flood-hit areas with relief items to address urgent needs.

In late-August, the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations launched a \$160 million emergency plan to help Pakistan respond to the devastation. The plan focuses on the needs of 5.2 million people and scaling up assistance in critical sectors. As climate shocks become more frequent in Pakistan, ramping up prevention and preparedness measures to avert, minimize and respond to the impacts of climate change and disaster-related displacement remains critical.



UNHCR is scaling up the distribution of much needed shelter materials and household items to flood-affected communities in Pakistan © UNHCR/Ghani

## Operational Highlights

### Protection:

- As the protection sector lead, UNHCR continues to **provide technical support** to ensure protection mainstreaming, gender sensitive approaches and refugee inclusion. On 5 September, **UNHCR convened a national-level protection sector meeting** to gain a better overview of the current gaps in the response and how to address them.
- UNHCR **distributed over 6,000 dignity kits** to refugee women and girls of reproductive age in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In addition, UNFPA and GBV partners distributed over **10,000 dignity kits** in flood affected areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.
- **The Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network finalised key messages** and information, education and communication materials as part of outreach efforts **to increase refugees' awareness and strengthen reporting mechanisms**.

### Education:

- **Rapid needs assessments** are currently underway to determine the impact on UNHCR-run refugee village schools in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Initial reports indicate **over 60 schools have been badly hit** in both locations and seriously impacted the learning of almost **30,000 students**. Classes are being temporarily held outside to **ensure the learning continuity** although discussions with UNICEF are underway to **set up temporary learning centres** which offer students more protection from harsh weather.

### Shelter & NFIs:

- UNHCR has mobilized the **large-scale transfer of some 1.2 million relief items** from various stockpiles across the globe as well as from local suppliers for **50,000 flood-affected households**. Items include tents, buckets, blankets, jerry cans, plastic tarpaulins, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, solar lamps and kitchen sets. In addition, some **2,000 refugee housing units** and **12 pre-fabricated warehouses** will also be transported. To date, **55 per cent of items have been delivered in Pakistan**. An additional **16 airlifts** carrying relief items from UNHCR stockpiles in Dubai, UAE, are also in the pipeline.
- Over **7,500 refugees** have benefited from sandbags to help protect their homes from floods.



*To date, 55 per cent of life-saving supplies have been delivered in Pakistan for distribution © UNHCR Pakistan*

### Health:

- UNHCR handed over **three inter-agency health kits (IAHK)** and two emergency **reproductive health (RH)** kits to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Each IAHK kit

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will cover the primary healthcare needs of **10,000 people** for three months while each RH kit will provide reproductive health services for **150,000 women**.

#### WASH:

- As part of the ongoing flood response, UNHCR via partners, has started **clearing waterways** in refugee villages in Balochistan. This will be critical in helping **mitigate the potential risk of a disease outbreak**. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, UNHCR and partners have begun de-watering flooded roads.

#### Livelihoods, Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance:

- UNHCR and partners are **conducting assessments to target emergency cash assistance** for those most vulnerable and in need. So far, more than **1,400 families have been identified** in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. The exercise is currently ongoing.