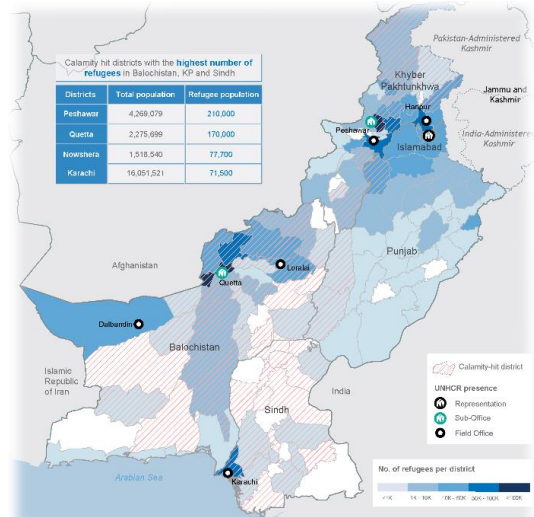


UNHCR FLOOD RESPONSE IN PAKISTAN UPDATE # 2

Key Figures

- UNHCR is supporting the government-led flood response alongside several national and international actors. **An estimated 800,000 refugees** are hosted in more than 40 'calamity hit' districts.
- Four 'calamity-hit' districts in **Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh** provinces host the highest number of refugees.
- So far, UNHCR has delivered **950,000 life-saving supplies** to authorities for distribution.
- UNHCR and partners have begun rolling out cash assistance to flood-affected people. **Over 100 households** received **cash assistance** in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, with plans to extend to Balochistan and Punjab provinces.

**This update will be issued on a weekly basis for as long as the situation necessitates.*



Operational Highlights

High-Level Visit to Pakistan by UN Secretary General

The United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) Mr António Guterres visited Pakistan from 9–10 September. During his visit, the UNSG met with government officials, including the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, United Nations Country Team, and flood affected communities in Sindh and Balochistan provinces. The UNSG used his visit to **raise awareness of the devastation** caused by unprecedented rains, flash flooding and rain-induced landslides. He concluded his visit by reiterating the **international community's obligation** to ramp up their action on the climate crisis and appealed for **greater financial support and responsibility sharing** by countries that have contributed more to climate change for **relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction** in Pakistan.



UN Secretary-General briefing the press following his visit to flood-affected communities © UNHCR Pakistan

Protection:

- To better understand the needs on the ground, **multi-sectoral rapid needs assessments (MSRNA)** are currently **underway in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab**. Inter-agency teams have been deployed and reinforced with female participation to guarantee more comprehensive data collection from affected communities. In addition, UNHCR has **trained more than 25 UN agency and NGO staff** in the three locations to **ensure key protection principles** are observed. The findings of this assessment – which are expected to be finalised in late-

September – will enable humanitarian actors to better understand and respond to affected communities' needs.

- As part of efforts to [localise the flood response](#), UNHCR is collaborating with the Special Talent Exchange Programme – a cross disability and development organization – to [conceptualize and establish a Diversity Task Force under the Protection Sector](#), bringing together national and international public, private and development sector stakeholders working with people with disabilities, the elderly, and other people with specific needs. The partnership agreement and terms of reference are currently being finalised. [Fostering inclusion from the outset of the emergency](#) is critical to mitigating the protection risks vulnerable groups face.
- Through the Water, Environment and Sanitation Society (WESS), some 50 flood-affected children and adults from three refugee villages in Pishin and Quetta districts in Balochistan province [received psycho-social first aid](#). In addition, some [1,500 children and more than 1,780 caregivers/parents received mental health and psychosocial support \(MHPSS\)](#). More funding is needed to scale up ongoing efforts to integrate MHPSS into protection and public health interventions – a key component of the emergency response.
- UN Women, UNFPA and UNHCR are collaborating on a [rapid gender needs assessment](#) to be rolled out in [Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh](#) to complement the ongoing MSRNAS. Consultations have already been initiated in Balochistan. The findings of this rapid gender analysis will support ongoing efforts to [strengthen the protection response and address existing barriers to participation](#).

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs):

- [950,000 core-relief items \(CRIs\)](#) out of the [planned 1.2 million](#) from various UNHCR stockpiles have been delivered. In addition, [21 out of 23 scheduled airlifts transporting much-needed relief items](#) have arrived in Pakistan. To date, [77 per cent of supplies](#) have reached the Humanitarian Response Facility managed by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) for their distribution to flood-affected areas.
- In Balochistan, [1,479 people \(203 families\)](#) received tents and other relief items via direct distribution in Pishin and Quetta districts (Balochistan province). In addition, [1,317 long-lasting insecticidal nets](#) were also distributed to flood-affected communities residing in Khazana, Shamshatoo and Khesghi refugee villages (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province).



*Items include tents, plastic sheeting, blankets, buckets and jerry cans
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Livelihoods, Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance:

- [Over 100 flood-affected families out of the already identified 420](#) received cash assistance (45,000 PKR = \$190) in Peshawar, Nowshera and Dera Ismail Khan districts (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province). Cash assistance for [120 households](#) in two districts in Punjab province is also underway. Plans to deliver cash assistance to 700 households in Quetta (Balochistan province) are currently being finalised. An assessment is also in the pipeline in Sindh province.

Education:

- UNHCR has started conducting [detailed assessments on schools damaged by monsoon rains](#) in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Ensuring access to education in emergencies remains a key priority for UNHCR because of the [stability, security and physical and psychosocial protection](#) it provides children and youth in crisis contexts.

Background

Since mid-June, [over 30 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. [Extreme and intense rainfall is expected to continue](#) in September and October in Sindh province – the hardest-hit area – and threatens to [exacerbate an already dire situation](#) for at-risk populations who are among the most vulnerable to climate change. As part of UN-system wide efforts, [UNHCR is supporting the government-led response](#) to scale up humanitarian assistance for refugee and host communities affected by the monsoon rains. UNHCR – as the protection sector lead – is coordinating with other partners to [mainstream protection, ensure gender sensitive approaches and promote refugee inclusion](#). UNHCR is also actively engaged in the [inter-sectoral coordination](#) of the shelter, WASH, education, health, food and nutrition, and livelihoods response.

While the main priority is to provide assistance to the worst flood-hit areas with [relief items to address immediate needs](#), discussions are already underway to [reprioritize activities for early recovery](#). In this regard, a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) led by the Government of Pakistan with support from UNHCR, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and UNDP has been initiated to [coordinate recovery and rehabilitation efforts among development partners](#).