

## UNHCR FLOOD RESPONSE IN PAKISTAN UPDATE # 3

### Key Updates

- 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.
- UNHCR has delivered 1.1 million core-relief items (CRIs) out of an initially planned 1.2 million to authorities for distribution to refugees and affected Pakistani communities.
- 22 scheduled UNHCR airlifts transporting core-relief items (CRIs) have arrived in Pakistan.
- More support is needed to scale up assistance. In addition to the inter-agency flood response plan, a supplementary appeal will be launched to bolster immediate and mid-term assistance.



UNHCR has delivered 90 per cent of CRIs it initially planned to deliver to authorities © UNHCR Pakistan

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

### Operational Highlights

#### Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs):

- 1.1 million core-relief items (CRIs) out of the initially planned 1.2 million from various UNHCR stockpiles have been delivered in Pakistan. In addition, all 22 scheduled airlifts transporting much-needed relief items have arrived in Pakistan. The distribution of these essential items, which are essential to restoring the dignity of flood-affected communities, is overseen by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).
- To reduce the risk of malaria, UNHCR via Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) distributed 400 long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) to households residing in two refugee villages in Peshawar and Nowshera districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. In total, nearly 3,500 LLINs have been distributed. LLINs are one of the most effective measures in the fight against malaria but more funding is needed to scale up and allow for greater coverage.

#### Protection:

- UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA concluded their joint multi-sectoral rapid needs assessments in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces. The findings of these assessments are expected to be finalised next week and will provide a clearer picture of the needs on the ground in order to inform the emergency response.
- As part of efforts to strengthen the protection response, UNHCR recently conducted a mission to Sindh province with the aim of devising a strategic approach to addressing existing protection gaps, coordination and capacity building with a focus on government, NGO and community-based approaches. The findings are currently being compiled and will feed into the wider protection strategy for the flood response.
- UNHCR led a national protection sector meeting attended by key international and national partners as well as government entities, including the Gender and Child Cell of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The aim of the meeting was to identify the protection priorities and ensure disaster response and rehabilitation is gender sensitive and inclusive. Key areas of intervention include mental health and

psychosocial support services, gender-based violence prevention, response and referral coordination, age-appropriate recreational activities, and resilience building and awareness raising.



UNHCR providing cash-based assistance © UNHCR Pakistan

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

- In coordination with community outreach volunteers and district officials, emergency cash-based assistance officially has started in Punjab province, reaching 56 flood-affected families. This assistance is also ongoing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan and targets the most vulnerable.

### Health:

- UNHCR partner Project Directorate Health (PDH) is conducting a rapid assessment in Shamshatoo refugee settlement in Peshawar following reports of dengue fever. Scaling up the health response is a key priority to prevent any potential outbreak.



More funding is needed to rehabilitate schools damaged by the recent floods © UNHCR Pakistan

### Education:

- 143 out of 144 refugee village schools remained operational in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab, while 34 have been identified as heavily damaged. More funding is needed to rehabilitate damaged schools to ensure the continuity of education.

## 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, water, sanitation and hygiene (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 and rehabilitation. A supplementary appeal will be launched in the coming days to scale up the immediate and mid-term response to flood-affected people and will include cash-based interventions, CRIs, protection, community-based protection, child protection as well as the rehabilitation of destroyed infrastructures under the health, education and WASH sectors from September 2022 to December 2023.

**DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** UNHCR is grateful for contributions from the below donors, including private donors and foundations and for unearmarked and softly earmarked funds, which allow us to respond in an agile manner, where the needs are greatest:

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