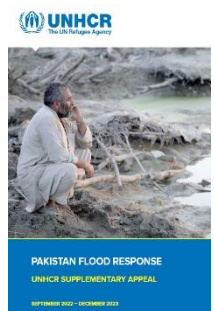


## UNHCR FLOOD RESPONSE IN PAKISTAN UPDATE # 6

### 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**. 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 priority has been to provide relief items to the worst flood-hit areas to address immediate needs, **reprioritizing activities for early recovery and rehabilitation** is also well underway. In early October, UNHCR released **a Supplementary Appeal asking for some \$65.8 million** to cover the immediate and mid-term needs of flood-affected communities from September 2022 to December 2023. A revised 2022 Floods Response Plan (September 2022 – May 2023) consolidated by UN OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team and its partners was launched during the same period appealing for \$816 million.



### Highlights

From 26 to 30 October, Ms Dominique Hyde, UNHCR Director of External Relations and Deputy Director Regional Bureau of Asia and the Pacific, Ms Ellen Hansen, visited Pakistan. During their visit, they **met with officials** from the Federal Minister for Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), the SAFRON Secretary, Commissioner for Afghan Refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, UN agencies and UNHCR colleagues, the Ambassadors of Belgium, South Korea and Qatar to Pakistan and other key donors, DAFI scholars, as well as **flood-affected refugee families** in Peshawar (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa).



*The Director met with staff and students from a UNHCR-supported project providing education and livelihoods training to Afghan refugees and host community © UNHCR*

UNHCR Special Advisor on Climate Action, Mr Andrew Harper, and Goodwill Ambassador, Ms Emtithal Mahmoud, participated in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27), which kicked off on 6 November in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt. UNHCR used this opportunity to [call for the inclusion of displaced people and host communities in climate action policy processes and national and legal frameworks, additional financial assistance and greater support for climate adaptation and investment in risk analysis and early warning systems](#). In his opening remarks, the UN Secretary General, Mr António Guterres, urged delegates to cooperate to deliver concrete action to tackle the climate crisis. His message was echoed by the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr Shehbaz Sharif, in a joint press encounter on the margins of COP27. Mr Sharif also led a bloc of more than 100 developing countries vulnerable to [climate change calling for climate compensation from rich nations](#) to cover costs disaster-hit nations are unable to avoid or adapt to. Following this, COP27 delegates agreed to establish a landmark 'loss and damage' mechanism providing financial assistance to developing countries vulnerable to climate change.

### UNHCR Response

- The inter-agency protection sector led by UNHCR released its first [protection analysis update](#). This document explains the methodology for determining people in need and the prioritized districts for protection interventions based on the Global Protection Cluster Severity Scale, provides a synthesis of the key protection risks identified by the multi-sectoral rapid needs assessments and proposes recommendations on how to address these risks. According to the report's findings, an estimated 13.5 million people – of which 54 per cent are children – are in need of protection. The analysis estimates approximately 7.9 million people have been displaced by the floods thereby heightening the risks faced by people living with pre-existing vulnerabilities.
- [The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment \(PDNA\)](#) – prepared under the leadership of the Government of Pakistan and supported by the Asian Development Bank, the European Union, and UN agencies and with technical assistance from the World Bank and UNDP – was officially launched. The report provides an initial estimate of the damage caused (\$14.9 billion), economic losses (\$15.2 billion) and rehabilitation and reconstruction needs (\$16.3 billion) following the floods. The PDNA also lays the groundwork for recovery and reconstruction efforts to support Pakistan's resilience to future climate shocks. Since the floods are likely to exacerbate existing challenges, UNHCR successfully advocated for the inclusion of refugees in the assessment and provided specific sectoral inputs on energy, access education and employment. With the launch of the PDNA, the Government's focus will now be on developing its Disaster Recovery Framework.
- As part of efforts to [bolster its operational footprint](#), [UNHCR established new office premises in Karachi](#) (Sindh). A Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and UNICEF is underway with regards to the provision of a shared office space in Sukkur and Hyderabad to enhance coordination in the hubs.
- To date, UNHCR has supported [some 1,625 refugees \(228 families\) with cash assistance](#) in Peshawar and DI Khan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) in addition to [899 refugees \(140 families\)](#) in Rahim Yar Khan and Chakwal (Punjab). Distributions in Quetta Urban are still ongoing with [1,666 refugees \(163 families\)](#) reached. [The total number of refugees supported](#) with cash assistance stands at [4,190 individuals](#). Preparations for a blanket distribution of cash assistance for all registered refugee households in late 2022 to address multi-sectoral needs are also underway.

- On 18 October, UNHCR conducted a protection assessment in Malir tent city in Karachi (Sindh) hosting some 8,000 people from far away districts in Sindh and Balochistan provinces. Key protection recommendations include the urgent need for GBV and child protection prevention and mitigation measures and enhanced camp management. The protection sector will follow up with sectors on their respective interventions. Between 26 and 28 October, UNHCR conducted field visits in Dadu, Jamshoro, Sanghar, Mirpurkas districts (Sindh) and met with district authorities and organizations managing camps and tent cities, and assessed IDP displacement data, returns and the related protection risks.
- On 21 October, PDMA chaired the 3<sup>rd</sup> intersectoral working group meeting chaired in Quetta (Balochistan) with the participation of several line ministries, UN agencies (UNHCR, WHO, UN WOMEN and FAO), INGOs and local NGOs. The meeting focused on the support required from humanitarian and development actors across different sectors during recovery and rehabilitation phases. UNHCR emphasized the importance of protection mainstreaming and coordination.
- On 2 November, UNHCR attended the child protection sub-sector working group co-chaired by PDMA and UNICEF. The meeting focused on prevention, response and coordination mechanisms and harmonizing service mapping in flood affected areas
- In its lead role within the protection sector, UNHCR actively participated in a meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator during his visit to Sindh province on 1 November. Discussions focused on the protection risks, activities implemented thus far and remaining gaps. The protection sector met with the Parliamentary Committee, Sindh Provincial Assembly and Sindh Chief Secretary along with the District Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to share information on the latest implemented activities and to discuss how to enhance district-level coordination among the humanitarian community and authorities in the flood response.

#### DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR's Flood Response as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds which allow us to respond in an agile manner, where the needs are greatest.

#### Flood Response earmarked contributions

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