

## UNHCR FLOOD RESPONSE IN PAKISTAN UPDATE # 4

### Key Updates

- On 5 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 the day before appealing for **\$816 million**.
- All **1.2 million core-relief items (CRIs)** have been delivered to authorities in Pakistan for distribution to flood-affected refugee and host community households.
- 84 refugee housing units (RHUs)** were delivered to Pakistan in the first-ever joint airlift by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and UNHCR.



UNHCR has delivered 100 per cent of supplies it had initially planned for to authorities © UNHCR Pakistan

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

### Operational Highlights

#### UNHCR releases Supplementary Appeal and UN launches revised Flood Response Plan:

On 5 October, UNHCR released a [Supplementary Appeal](#) requesting some **\$65.8 million to scale up the immediate and mid-term response** to 650,000 flood-affected refugee and host communities for protection, shelter, CRIs, water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH), health, education, food security and cash-based interventions (CBIs). The Appeal [runs from September 2022 to December 2023](#) and follows the launch of the revised UN inter-agency flood response plan on 4 October, which increased the initial funding request from \$160 million to \$816 million in view of the extraordinary scale of devastation caused by the floods. The launch of the latter was accompanied by a Briefing in Geneva, Switzerland, attended by high-level officials from the Government of Pakistan, including the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Climate Change and Minister for Economic Affairs, as well as the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, WHO Director-General and UN Pakistan Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. The plan runs from [September 2022 to May 2023](#) and UNHCR's ask under this appeal is **some \$36 million**.

#### UNHCR Pakistan Representative visits flood-affected households in Sindh Province:

UNHCR Pakistan Representative Ms Norika Yoshida visited Sindh Province, where thousands of people have been displaced by catastrophic floods and the scale of destruction remains huge. Ms Yoshida met with several families and learnt more about their needs.



Ms Yoshida speaking with a flood affected family at a relief site in Larkana district in Sindh © UNHCR Pakistan

During her visit, Ms Yoshida also attended a handover ceremony, where UNHCR donated 85 state-of-the-art dialysis machines to the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation. The project is funded by the European Union and is aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Renal Unit to conduct more dialysis sessions thereby easing the pressure on public services.

### Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

All 1.2 million CRIs from various UNHCR stockpiles initially targeting 50,000 flood-affected households have arrived in Pakistan. To date, 285,000 blankets, 203,000 sleeping mats, 168,000 mosquito nets, 30,800 tents, 106,000 plastic tarpaulins,

over 100,000 buckets, 50,000 kitchen sets and jerry cans each and over 2,000 RHUs have been delivered to authorities for distribution. The distribution of these various items, which are essential to restoring the dignity of flood-affected communities, is overseen by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

- The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and UNHCR sent their first-ever joint airlift transporting 84 RHUs from Termez to Pakistan. These RHUs are innovative shelter solutions with various uses that provide immediate physical safety as a solar-powered shelter or housing community infrastructure such as health clinics, safe spaces for women, or child-friendly spaces in flood-affected areas while damaged structures are being rebuilt.



Emergency supplies at UNHCR's warehouse in Azakhel village in Nowshera District are prepared for delivery to support flood-affected people in the region © UNHCR Pakistan

### Protection

- In consultation with protection partners in Balochistan, UNHCR conducted a desk review of previously assessed GBV-related needs on the flood impact. Key challenges identified, which are in line with the prioritised needs in the recently launched Appeal, include safe access to water, women and girls' exposure to protection risks during their long journeys in search of clean water, trauma experienced by pregnant women and girls, and the negative impact floods have had on people's access to medical facilities. Recommendations on the way forward include enhancing psycho-social support to affected communities and community level psychological first aid training, creating safe spaces for women, girls and children, scaling up the provision of CRIs, CBIs, and dignity, hygiene and medical kits, and food assistance (particularly for lactating women), as well as increasing targeted assistance for vulnerable groups such as people with specific needs.
- UNHCR and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) co-chaired a provincial protection sector meeting on 4 October in Quetta (Balochistan). The need for enhanced protection mainstreaming and coordination in the humanitarian response and strengthened awareness raising on protection risks in affected communities as well as amongst relevant stakeholders were some of the key points deliberated.
- UNHCR chaired a national level Protection Sector meeting on 4 October in Islamabad attended by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The main findings of the rapid needs assessment identified robberies and looting as one of the main security risks and early marriage and gender-based violence as some of the key protection risks.

## Livelihoods, Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- 984 individuals (139 families) received cash assistance in Peshawar and DI Khan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province) as did 789 individuals (123 families) in Rahim Yar Khan and Chakwal (Punjab province). Distributions in Quetta Urban are still ongoing with 1,238 people (123 households) benefiting from this type of assistance to date. Cash transfers are great tools which enable flood-affected households to meet their most pressing needs thereby making it less likely for people to resort to negative coping mechanisms.
- In addition, outreach sessions on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and complaint mechanisms were also conducted by UNHCR to raise awareness on the reporting channels during a beneficiary identification exercise in Karachi (Sindh province).

## Health

- Cases of dengue fever were reported in Oblan and Gamkol refugee villages in Kohat district (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). This is in addition to some 1,700 cases previously reported in Shamshatoo refugee settlement in Peshawar. Project Directorate Health from the Pakistan's Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees is currently providing treatment such as IV drips and glucose to affected people. Scaling up the health response continues to be a key priority to prevent cholera outbreaks and widespread cases of malaria and dengue fever.

## Education

- In Balochistan, UNHCR conducted a one-day workshop for 20 participants from the Provincial Institute for Education on psychological first aid. Topics included common psychological crises and stress management. These sessions will be extended to students and teachers in refugee village schools.

## 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, reprioritizing activities for early recovery and rehabilitation is also underway.

## 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:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Private donors Australia, Private donors Canada, Private donors Germany, Private donors Italy, Private donors Australia, Private donors Canada, Private donors Italy, Private donors Japan, Private donors Republic of Korea, Private donors Spain, Private donors UK, Private donors USA, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

**LINKS:** [Global Focus: Pakistan](#) | [Operational Data Portal: Pakistan](#) | [Twitter: @UNHCRPAKISTAN](#) | [Facebook](#) |