



Loading medical supplies at the WHO Islamabad warehouse for delivery to flood-affected districts.

Photo: Syed Haider Ali/WHO

Highlights

- Government of Pakistan announces on 24 August measures to strengthen coordination and activities, including disease surveillance, to respond to health impacts of flood emergency.
- Increasing numbers of cases of diarrhoeal disease, acute respiratory infections, skin diseases and malaria are being reported, with growing concerns about the overall situation in Sindh and Punjab provinces.
- At least 380 health facilities damaged or destroyed by flooding.
- 21 diarrhoeal disease centres operating, through USAID/OFDA funding, in affected districts of KPK, Punjab and Sindh provinces, with more being set up.
- Health Cluster coordination active in 5 hubs - Islamabad, Peshawar, Multan, Sukkur, Quetta.
- 39% of the US\$56.2 million requested to support the health response has been funded, according to OCHA as of 23 August.
- On 23 August, 101,925 patient were treated in flood affected districts. Of these consultations, 25,476 cases of skin infections (24% of total), 16,469 cases of acute respiratory infections (16%), 14,008 cases of acute diarrhoea (14%) and 4966 cases of suspected malaria (5%) were reported.

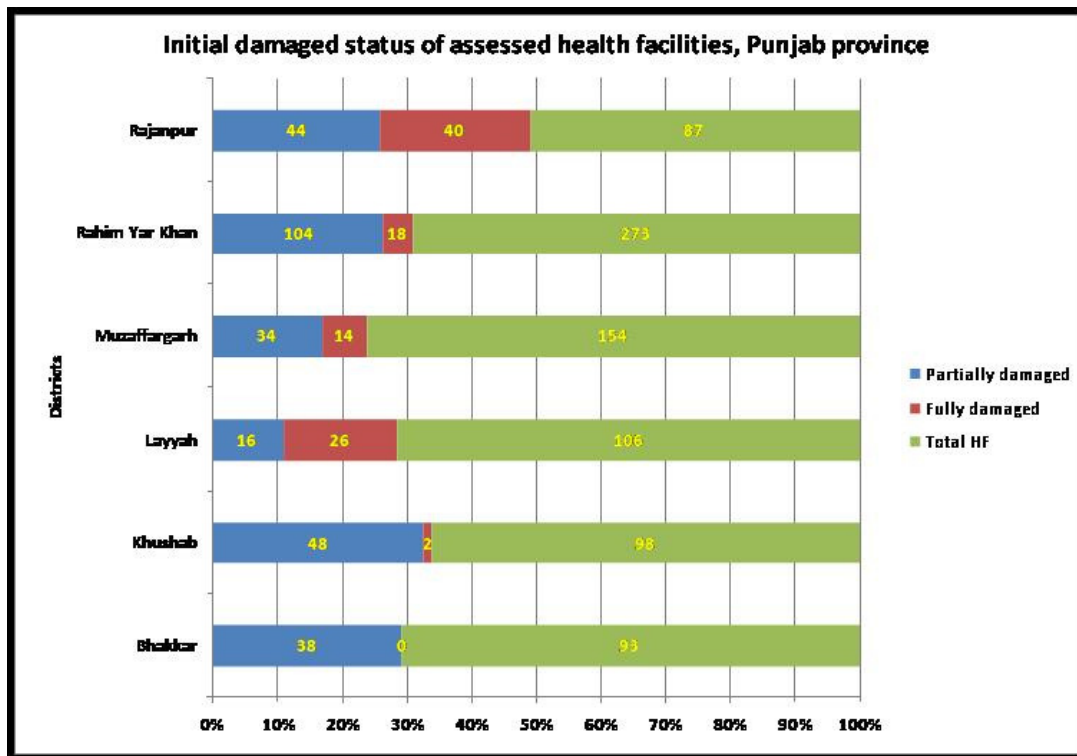


Situation overview and current scale of disaster

- According to OCHA, 17.2 million people have been affected by the floods, with Pakistan officials stating number of affected could be upwards of 20 million. 1539 people have been reported killed and more than 2000 injured, while around 1 million are left homeless. Some 160,000 square kilometers of land has been affected.
- The situation in Sindh has continued to deteriorate, with evacuations reported from Thatta and Shahdadkot districts in recent days as the second wave of flooding moves into province's south. Provision of clean drinking water and related WASH support in Sindh and Punjab are of increasingly critical importance.

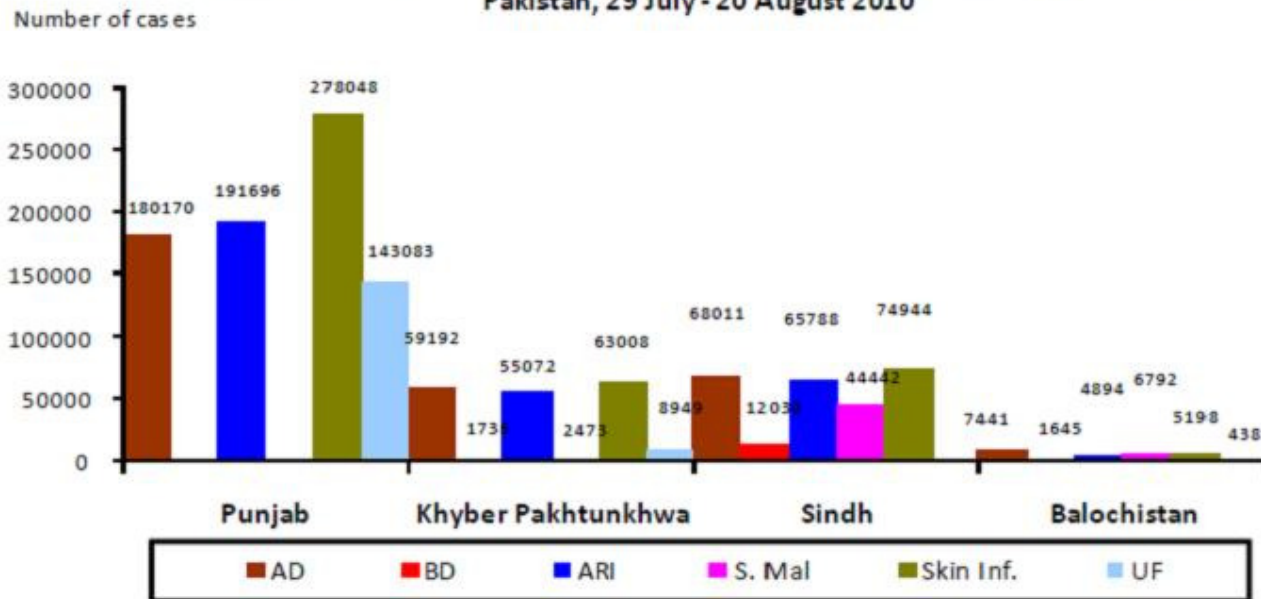
Health impact

- At least 380 hospitals and clinics have been totally destroyed or partially damaged in each of the provinces, according to WHO.



- During the last 24 hours, a total of 101,925 patients' consultations were reported from the flood-affected districts. Of these consultations, 25,476 cases of skin infections (24%), 16,469 cases of acute respiratory infections (16%), 14,008 cases of acute diarrhoea (14%) and 4,966 cases of suspected malaria (5%) were reported.
- Between 29 July to 21 August, a total of 2,394,492 patients' consultations were reported from the affected districts. Of these consultations, 314,814 cases of acute diarrhoea (13% of total consultations), 317,450 cases of Acute Respiratory Infection (13% of total consultations), 421,198 cases of skin infections (18% of total consultations) and 53,707 cases of suspected malaria (2% of total consultations) were reported from the flood-affected districts.
- The number of cases of suspected malaria is rising in Baluchistan and Sindh provinces compared to KPK and Punjab. During the last 24 hours, the number of cases reported from suspected malaria comprised 17% of patients' consultations in Baluchistan province and 11% in Sindh.

Figure-6: Leading causes of seeking health care in the flood affected districts of Pakistan, 29 July - 20 August 2010



- WHO on 24 August has launched a new weekly disease surveillance document, the full reports can be downloaded from http://www.whopak.org/idps/diseases_situation.asp#ds

Government response

- The Government of Pakistan announced on 24 August the creation of a new national steering committee to intensify and streamline the overall health response to the impacts of the flood crisis. The committee be headed by the Federal Secretary of Health and will include all provincial health secretaries plus the representatives of WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA.

The aim of the committee is to ensure better coordination between districts, provinces and the Federal level in terms of improving access to information. Focal points will be appointed at district and provincial level with the responsibility to actively gather and share information so to improve coordination, identify gaps, and reduce duplication of health activities.

There was also a decision to intensify disease early warning and surveillance systems flood-affected areas, ensuring that an "active" system of surveillance is in place, rather than a "passive" one. This will involve making health facilities responsible for actively reporting disease surveillance data to district, provincial and Federal levels. A further measure taken at the 24 August meeting was the decision to better coordinate and monitor medical resources (supplies and staff) so they are best used in the emergency response. For Health Cluster partners, this would mean providing greater clarity as to where their services are needed.
- Since its 20 August launch, the Ministry of Health's National Health Volunteer Programme has seen 840 volunteer doctors, nurses, public health professionals and paramedics register with the scheme. Volunteers will form 4-member teams and work for 15 days in the communities most affected by the floods.
- The Ministry of Health-led taskforce on communicable diseases has issued new guidelines on responding to cholera and acute watery diarrhoea cases. These guidelines were revised with the support of WHO. The new guidance, issued in response to the growing disease concerns in flood-affected provinces, have been sent to district and provincial health officials and will be disseminated widely.
- Hundreds of thousands of children have be immunized against a range of diseases during vaccination campaigns conducted in the 4 provinces between 4-20 August. The campaign was coordinated by MoH's National Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Centre and implemented by the national Expanded Programme of Immunization.

Children were vaccinated against polio, measles, tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), hepatitis B, and Haemophilus influenza type b (often known as Hib) which causes some severe forms of pneumonia and meningitis, and given Vitamin A supplements. Pregnant women were also vaccinated against tetanus and neonatal tetanus.

Health Cluster response

- **UNFPA** provides emergency reproductive health/maternal newborn responds through deploying 23 fully equipped and staffed mobile service units and supporting 13 existing govt. health facilities in 14 districts of KPK, Sindh and Punjab provinces.
UNFPA has provided emergency reproductive health medicines to cover 510,000 people for one month, women's hygiene kits for 3300 families, 1800 newborn kits, Interagency clean delivery packets were distributed among pregnant women to in flood affected districts of KPK, Punjab and Sindh provinces.
During 21-22 August, UNFPA staff consulted around 4700 patients, including 187 deliveries, 980 antenatal consultations, 132 postnatal consultations, 18 post-abortion care, 30 consultations for syndromic case management of sexually transmitted infections and 500 cases of gastroenteritis. In the same period, UNFPA distributed women's hygiene kits to cater for 240 families for one month and 187 newborn kits were distributed to newly delivering mothers.
- **Helping Hands for Relief and Development (HHRD)** is operating more than 150 health facilities in Punjab, KPK and Sindh provinces, and, on 23 August its medical staff treated more than 33,000 people for a range of conditions, including diarrhoea, skin infections, respiratory infections and malaria.
- **World Health Organization** is planning to establish 69 diarrhoea treatment centres in 47 priority affected districts in the 4 provinces after receiving funding support from USAID. 21 have already been established, 17 are in the process of being set up and the remainder are under discussion. The centres will be run by implementing partners and health authorities. 11 of 15 centres being established in KPK are operational; 9 of the 11 planned for Punjab have been established; 4 of the 16 planned for Sindh are being established, 4 of the 8 for Punjab are being set up.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

- **Medical Emergency Relief International (MERLIN):** Merlin is scaling up operations and mobilizing 682 medical, health and logistics support staff. Merlin has also distributed 50,000 Aqua-Tabs, 90,000 water purification sachets (enough to purify 1 million litres of water) and 10,000 hygiene kits, throughout 3 of KPK's worst-affected areas. Primary health care services are being provided alongside waterborne disease control, blanket distribution of oral rehydration salts. Since 5 August 2010, Merlin has conducted around 90,000 consultations (average 6000 per day).
In Nowshera, Merlin is providing health and nutrition services through 5 mobile team in 6 Nowshera union councils and 6 static clinics in Jalozai that provide 24-hour coverage. On 23 August, 1570 consultations were conducted, and 235 water purification tablets, 245 Multi Micronutrients Tablets, 230 high energy biscuits and 700 plumpy nuts were distributed. 23 health promotion sessions were conducted for 410 people. A diarrhoea treatment centre started functioning 21 August and has treated 104 patients to date. Merlin is covering an approximate catchment population of 153,034 in Nowshera.
In Swat, Merlin is providing health services through 9 mobile teams (8 in Upper Swat, 1 in Lower Swat) and 11 fixed health facilities. On 23 August, 3300 consultations were conducted, as were 116 health promotion sessions for 1455 people. A diarrhoea treatment centre is being established at tehsil headquarters Matta. Merlin is covering an approximate catchment population of 590,036 in Swat. A mobile camp was conducted in response to a suspected AWD case in Battai Bunn area,. Hygiene kits and aqua tabs were distributed. In addition, 110 Hygiene Kits were also distributed in Mingora and Bahrain.
In Buner, Merlin is providing comprehensive PHC, reproductive healthcare and disease early warning systems in Buner district through 10 fixed health facilities and 3 mobile teams. On 23 August, 60 health promotion sessions were conducted for 627 people. Merlin is covering an approximate catchment population of 337,808. A diarrhoea treatment centre is being established at tehsil headquarters Pachakalay.
- **The Pakistan Red Crescent Society** continues operations at 7 basic health units in Kohistan and Shangla districts of KPK province. On 22 August, the basic health units in the Shangla towns of Damorai and Olandar conducted multiple around 180 consultations.
- **CARE** has treated more than 14,000 patients during the emergency in Upper Swat via 2 mobile teams and 4 basic health units. It has also conducted 7 mobile clinics in Charsada district, providing almost 1200 patients with primary health care, including approximately 300 women & 300 children on 22-23 August. On 23 August in Upper Swat,

CARE health facilities treated 1272 patients. In Nowshera, CARE conducted 10 mobile clinics in Nowshera district, treating over 1300 patients, including 370 women and 470 children on 22-23 August.

- **Doctors Worldwide** has rehabilitated and reequipped the Pir Sabaq basic health unit and is working out of the facility since 9 August, with permission from health authorities in Peshawar. Local and international volunteers are staffing the facility. Doctors Worldwide is also establishing a 6-patient inpatient facility at the same centre, and intends to replicate its activities at 4 more basic health units (Ganderi, Misri Banda, Shaidu, Jehangira).
- **International Medical Corps** has deployed 14 medical teams to flood-affected areas of Charsadda, Peshawar and Nowshera. On 22 August, IMC medical teams provided medical treatment to 1300 patients, including 164 cases of acute diarrhoea, 214 cases of acute respiratory infection, and 147 cases of scabies.
- **Relief International** has established 2 medical camps, one at the border of union council Bahrain in Upper Swat, and one in bordering Lower Dir district's Khan union council. On 24 August, its teams conducted 206 patient consultations in Swat and 47 in Lower Dir. There was a reported increase of diarrhoeal cases among the consultations and acute upper respiratory infections, while cases of scabies are also being reported. In recent days, Relief International conducted 3 infant and young child feeding education sessions for 91 pregnant women and lactating mothers, while 7 education sessions were conducted on water-borne diseases. RI workers distributed 400 water purification tablets and demonstrated their use, registered 15 pregnant women antenatal check up, distributed Energy-5 Biscuits for under five children, and Multi micronutrient tablets and sachets to children and women.
- **IHH-Turkey** has been sent a medical team to support health activities in Nowshera, with a second team expected to arrive 25 August. IHH-Turkey plans to support Shelter and WASH cluster activities as well.
- **UNICEF** is providing 4.2 million sachets of oral rehydration salts and 2.1 million Zinc doses to lady health workers for community-based management of diarrhoea in children aged under 5 in flood-affected areas of Khyber Paktoonkhwa, Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, AJK and Gilgit Baltistan. UNICEF and WHO are assisting the Provincial Expanded Programme of Immunization efforts to immunize children against measles and provide vitamin A supplementation. The campaigns are targeting schools, camps and flood-affected areas in Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera. A UNICEF-supported measles campaign started in Swat on 19 Aug. 381 teams have been deployed throughout Swat, Charsadda and Peshawar to conduct the campaign in these 3 districts. These teams have vaccinated 205,520 children aged under 5 against polio, 185,140 children (6-59 months) received measles vaccine and 184,801 children (6-59 months) received Vit A supplementation. 6 UNICEF mobile medical teams have been operating in Charsadda, Nowshera and Swat, providing consultations for 1,626 patients, including 722 children and 571 women. 77 women received antenatal, postnatal care and 32 high risk pregnant women and 2 seriously ill children were provided with referrals through these teams. The teams distributed 270 hygiene kits and 921 soap bars, plus delivered health and hygiene messages to 297 people. UNICEF supported 5 district health authority medical teams in D.I. Khan that have treated more than 1000 people, including over 500 women and 200 children. These teams have resumed providing services through health facilities. UNICEF supported specialized paediatric services at D.I. Khan districts headquarters hospital, treating 459 children. A mobile team in D.I. Khan has treated 466 patients, including 296 children and 147 women. Mother Child Days, supported by UNICEF, have been conducted in 6 Swat union councils. Health teams served 1261 households (11,848 people), providing oral rehydration salts, aqua tab strips, jerry cans, and water purification tablets. Pregnant women received antenatal care and were vaccinated against tetanus. Children were vaccinated against measles, received de-worming and were given multi-micronutrient sachets. Medical teams provided health, hygiene and breastfeeding-related messages. UNICEF distributed 10,000 sachets of ORS and other medical materials to support mobile medical services in Kohistan.
- **International Catholic Migration Mission** operates a health facility Charsadda district's Prang union council, where on 23 August its health staff conducted 96 consultations, numerous of which were for diarrhoeal diseases, respiratory tract infections and scabies.
- **Malteser International** has treated, up until 21 August, 5236 patients at fixed health facilities within the Swat district union councils of Islampur, Chetewar and Meragai, as well as through 7 medical camps. The average number of

patients being treated at the 3 fixed health facilities is 65 per day. Each Malteser mobile team has its own ambulance-type referral capacity.

Malteser has supported vaccination efforts and is providing intensive hygiene awareness campaigns in the area with suspected acute watery diarrhoea, including in Barikot, Margazal and Ahunbaba in Islampur, and Mingora Town. During the previous week, several hundred families were registered by Malteser, and printed hygiene materials, aquatabs, soap and ORS sachets were distributed.

Malteser will be procuring, using CERF funds acquired by WHO, additional health supplies and equipment for operating 2 diarrhoea treatment centres in northern Swat with a combined 100 patient capacity. With its own funds and funds from the German government, Malteser will purchase 1000 hygiene/household family kits for Swat, and a further 600 for Kohistan. Malteser International, which is operating in Swat and Kohistan districts of KPK, notes its major challenges are access to people in affected areas, and ensuring access to health facilities.

- **American Rescue Committee International** is working through 7 health facilities in Swat district. On 23 August, ARC staff treated 604 patients, with diarrhoea representing 17.7% of cases, respiratory tract infections 22.6%, and scabies 6.9%.
104 women received antenatal care consultations, and 24 received postnatal care consultations. 41 health education sessions were conducted, 18 sessions for psychosocial counseling and 19 delivery kits were distributed. Mobile health camps have been established in Swat, with more than 600 patients treated in 3 villages of Shah Dehry, Takhta Band Angora Dehry.
- **Church World Service** is operating mobile teams in remote areas of 3 KPK districts - Swat, Manshera and Kohistan - where they provide essential medicines and consultations for patients with a focus on women and children. As of 24 August, the teams had conducted 2446 consultations, while a lady health worker had examined 44 antenatal and 6 postnatal clients. 398 children were examined by the teams. The mobile teams use their own ambulance to transfer patients needing urgent referral to secondary or tertiary level health care facilities. Church World Service is planning to further expand mobile health units in Kohistan and Shangla Districts.

Punjab province

- **CARE International** is providing primary health care services in southern Punjab province via a mobile clinic in Muzafargarh, which has treated 213 patients including 30 women and 107 children.
- **WHO**, from the Multan Health Cluster hub, is preparing to send a consignment of medical supplies to DG Khan and Rajanpur on 24 August, by air asap. A WHO team visited 2 formal IDP camps near Multan, noting that safe drinking water was available and sanitation conditions were satisfactory. Medicines are available in sufficient quantities. An adequate patient referral system exists from the camps to Nishter Hospital.

Sindh province

- **CARE International** is providing services in Sindh province via 10 mobile clinics. The teams have provided primary health care services to 2105 patients via 10 mobile clinics Sukkur and Shikarpur districts, including 774 women and 845 children. *CARE has also provided PHC services to 403 patients via 03 Mobile clinics including 94 women & 183 children in district Sukkur & Shikarpur of Sind province.*
- **WHO** is expected to open a new diarrhoea treatment centre on 25 August in Kankhot, near Sukkar, which will be operated by the **Health and Nutrition Development Society (HANDS)** and district health authorities. Another centre is operating in Khairpur town, near Sukkar, at and by the Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences.
- **WHO**, from the Health Cluster bug in Sukkar, is planning to airlift medicines, including for the treatment of diarrhoeal diseases, to communities inaccessible by road due to flooding.

Baluchistan province

- Medical services are being provided to displaced people in 6 districts of Baluchistan, with support being provided by health authorities, Muslim Hands, WHO and community organizations.
- **Relief International** established on 23 August a static emergency PHC services centre in union council Dhadar of Kachi district, Baluchistan, where there are 23,000 displaced people living. The team working at the centre comprises 2 medical officers, 2 lady health volunteers, 2 health educators and 2 dispensers. On its first day, the team conducted 147 consultations, 5 antenatal checkups, 2 health education sessions on diarrhoeal disease prevention and nutritional anthropometry of 14 children.
- **Johanniter International** will commence providing health services in Bolan and the district health facility in Naseerabad. Johanniter will provide medical services at the basic health units in Mitri, Hajio Seher, Chandar, Killi Shahbaz, Masoo and the Chalgri rural health centre.
- **WHO** has provided medicines to the Baluchistan health department, which has distributed the materials 10 health facilities serving flood affected people, including items for treating diarrhoeal diseases.
- **American Refugee Committee International** is working at the rural health centres in Talli and Lehri, and the basic health units at Sultan Kot, Bakhtiarabad, Chandia and Gishkori. More than 930 patients were treated at the different facilities on 23 August.

Inter-cluster coordination

- **WASH-HEALTH:**
WHO is working with UNICEF, as WASH cluster lead, which is coordinating the WASH cluster response to reach safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation supplies to flood-affected communities.
In Multan, WHO briefed at the WASH Cluster meeting on 24 August, presenting current disease patterns, and statistics on the damage to health facilities. WHO also briefed on malaria prevention strategies undertaken by the Punjab Health Department. WHO is leading the sub-cluster on health and hygiene within the WASH Cluster in Multan. A WHO environmental health consultant presented the matrix of an action plan for flood-affected areas.
- **LOGISTICS-HEALTH:**
Logistics cluster receiving 3 helicopters to be based in Multan and they are awaiting partners, including Health Cluster, to provide distribution plan to deliver supplies to areas not accessible by road.
The Health Cluster is in constant coordination with the Logistics Cluster to capitalise on opportunities to delivery medical supplies offered by air support.

For further information contact: health_cluster_bulletin@pak.emro.who.int

Please submit your organization's activities by 5pm daily using the above email address.